

# **SKI AREA OPERATING PLAN**

2008-2013

## **Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Area**

Mt. Hood National Forest

Administered by

**Hood River Ranger District**

Mt. Hood National Forest  
R6 – Pacific Northwest Region  
U.S.D.A. Forest Service

# Signature Page

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# Ski Area Operating Plan

Winter Operating Season – Year

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## **I. Winter Operating Plan- General Comments**

### **A. Statement of Purpose**

The Operating Plan is a requirement of the Ski Area's Term Special Use Permit. The Operating Plan and any annual revisions become a part of the Term Special Use Permit when signed by the authorized Forest Service officer. Its purpose is to authorize the Ski Area to conduct activities and provide public services on National Forest System lands within the special use permit boundary in accordance with federal law and regulation and Forest Service policy.

The Operating Plan represents a working tool through which the Ski Area and the Forest Service establish the operating procedures for the Ski Area's winter operations. It defines the Ski Area's current organizational structure, departmental activities and responsibilities, and establishes a protocol for communications between the Ski Area and Forest Service.

### **B. Operating Principles**

1. The special use permit authorizes the Ski Area to provide public opportunities for developed winter recreation as defined by the Mt. Hood National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.
2. The Forest Service reserves the right to use all or part of the permitted area for any purpose, provided such use does not materially interfere with the Ski Area operations.
3. Information about the types and prices of services offered must be prominently displayed, readily available to all members of the public, and made available independent of other transactions.

### **C. Responsibility Statements**

#### **I. Forest Service Responsibilities**

The Forest Service is responsible for the management of National Forest System lands within the special use permit boundary; has the authority to approve the type of services provided the public, and the responsibility to ensure that these services conform to satisfactory standards.

The authorized officer for the Ski Area special use permit is the Forest Supervisor. The Forest Supervisor may delegate responsibilities for routine daily monitoring and day-to-day administration of the Ski Area to the District Ranger. The Winter Sports Administrator is the District Ranger's representative.

**Record Keeping, Forest Supervisor** - The Forest Supervisor is responsible for maintaining a complete record of original documents that require the approval of the authorized officer, including the special use permit and map, NEPA documents and records of decision, special reports, agreements, correspondence, policies, audits, and fee collection records. Forest Service manuals and handbooks, Code of Federal Regulations, Forest Plan, and other relevant documents are also retained and made available, as needed, for review by the Ski Area's representatives on official business.

**Record Keeping, District Ranger** – The District Ranger retains a full set of records, as needed, for daily administration of the Ski Area. Documents are available on request for review by the Ski Area's representatives on official business.

1. Term Special Use Permit (copy)
2. Special use permit map (copy)
3. Master development plan documentation
4. NEPA documents and decisions
5. Forest Plan
6. Written correspondence
7. Monitoring reports

**Monitoring,-** The District Permit Administrator maintains direct contact with the Ski Area’s representatives on a daily basis and is the primary Forest Service contact for administration of the Ski Area. The Administrator coordinates arrangements for implementation of the Forest Service Monitoring Plan with The Ski Area’s representatives. Contacts are primarily with the General Manager and Executive Director of Planning and Mountain Operations. All reports generated by monitoring activities, oral and written are communicated to the Ski Area.

**Monitoring Memos**

- Date, location and accomplishments of the Ski Area visits
- Field observations
- Future projects needed
- Contacts with the Ski Area personnel
- Agreements or commitments

**Monitoring Priorities**

The Ski Area’s operations to be monitored are identified with consideration to the following priorities that include both summer and winter operations. Additional examples may occur that are not listed below.

**Priority 1** – This category includes activities that could affect public health & safety, and resource activated where no other agency has authority or involvement. Some examples include the following.

**Operations**

- Avalanche control program
- Ski Patrol staffing
- Slope and terrain safety
- First aid facility
- Employee training, procedures & qualifications
- Special event management
- Signing, i.e. boundary, trail
- Grooming / equipment operation
- Mid-season employee training
- Snowmaking
- Litter clean up
- Tramway operations and maintenance
- Civil Rights Compliance

**Construction**

- Trail design and layout
- Lift profiles and terminal site design
- Master planning
- Facility maintenance
- Review of upcoming summer projects
- Erosion control
- Vegetation management
- Visual resource management
- Slash Disposal
- Road construction

**Priority 2** – This category includes activities related to public health, risk management, and resource activities that have other agency involvement. Inspection reports conducted by others with jurisdictions related to public health and safety for facilities on National Forest System lands will be on file for Forest Service review. Some examples include the following.

**Operations Activity**

- Employee training
- Restaurant operations

**Responsible Agency**

- OSHA
- County Health Dept

<b>-Operations Activity (cont'd)</b>	<b>Responsible Agency</b>
-Tramway operations and maintenance	Insurance Company and FS Engineer
-Waste water facilities	Oregon DEQ
-Water treatment facilities-	Oregon State Health Dept
-Building permits & reviews	County and FS Engineer
-Fire codes	County and State Fire Marshall
-Construction	County and FS Engineer
-Explosive storage & handling	ATF, State and FS
-Howitzer	USFS

**Priority 3** – This category includes activities that are in the public interest, but non-essential to the site operation. Some examples include:

**Operations**

- Vendors / Concessions
- Ski School
- Customer service operations
- Guest services
- Marketing

**Construction**

- Interference with summer operations
- Appearance during construction to summer user

**2. Responsibility Statement - The Ski Area Responsibilities**

This Operating Plan will remain in effect for five years until modified as needed. The Ski Area will provide the Forest Service with any summer construction or development proposals by April 15<sup>th</sup> each year. Any major projects should be submitted to the Forest Service by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Ski Area is responsible for all daily operations, maintenance, and construction within the Ski Area boundary.

**The Ski Area management roles:**

1. The *General Manager* is responsible for all activities occurring at the Ski Area including implementation of the master Development Plan and capital improvements.
2. The *Executive Director, Resort Operations* is responsible for all indoor and outdoor operations.
3. The *Executive Director, Mountain Operations and Planning* is responsible for mountain operations including lift operations and maintenance, ski patrol, grooming and snowmaking, slope maintenance and grooming, snowmaking, facilities maintenance, planning, and summer operations.
4. The *Director- Ski School* is responsible for all on-mountain adult ski school activities, children's ski school, nursery and day care activities.
5. The *Director- Food & Beverage* is responsible for the operation of the on-mountain restaurant and cafeteria facilities including sanitation compliance.
6. The *Executive Director, Human Resources* is responsible for human resource policies and procedures.

7. The *Director of Risk Management and Patrol* responsibilities include the training and supervision of the following: emergency medical procedures, risk management, lift evacuation, avalanche control, and incident record keeping.
8. The *Director of Lifts* responsibilities include the training and supervision of the following: lift operations and maintenance, incident and inspection record keeping

## II. The Ski Area Operations & Procedures

### A. Organizational Structure

The following will be included in the Ski Area Operating Plan and posted at Ski Patrol Headquarters with dispatch. It outlines emergency contact of Forest Service.

#### Contact Information

##### Emergency Contact of Forest Service

Contact the Forest Service immediately in case of the following:

- Any incident resulting in serious life-threatening injury or death, or that the media will have interest in.
- A "passenger tramway accident" or "major passenger tramway failure".
- A search and rescue operation (within 24 hours).
- Any avalanche or mechanical or structural incident that has high potential for major personal injury.

The procedure to notify the Forest Service is to call 541.352.6002 during normal business hours. If after normal business hours call:

##### Forest Service Personnel

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Business</u>	<u>Home/Cell</u>
Doug Jones	Permit Administrator	#682	503.980.6828
Kevin Slagle	Recreation Assistant	#605	541.490.3310
Daina Bambe	District Ranger	#607	541.352.9350

The Ski Area Personnel can be reached at 503.337.2222 during normal business hours. If after normal business hours call:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Business</u>	<u>Home/Cell</u>
Matthew Drake	Chairman/CEO	#1404	503.319.9293
Tom Spangler	General Manager	#1259	503.504.6031
Steve Warila	Executive Director, Mountain Operations and Planning	#1206	541-991-1157
Melissa Toney	Director of Risk Management and Patrol	#1257	541.490.9233
Woody Hoye	Executive Director, Resort Operations	#1250	541.490.3042
Tom Scully	Director of Lifts	#1390	541-490-9234

## **B. Special Policies**

### **1. Special Restrictions – Rules of Use**

Only those rules of use that address legitimate health and safety concerns, or that do not unduly interfere with the holder's operation of its business, will be approved by the Forest Service. Every rule of use will be submitted to the Forest Service and approved in writing by an authorized officer before it may be enforced at the site.

The lifts and trails are designed for use by the skiing guest using alpine skis, Nordic skis, snowboards or mono-skis, affixed to their feet by a range of binding systems. The use of certain disabled skier skiing devices are permitted on many lifts. Each ski or board shall have in operation a strap or other device capable of stopping the equipment, should it become detached from the skier. Bulky and carried items such as large backpacks, snow play items, hang gliders, para gliders, ski bobs, snow/ski bikes, children in backpacks, etc. will not be allowed on the lifts. Sledding is not allowed within the Ski Area boundary. Dogs must be leashed while within the Ski Area boundary and with the exception of service dogs are not allowed inside the lodges or other facilities, near the bottom of ski lifts/maze areas, on ski lifts, or on the decks while food service/dining is in operation.

Within the permit area, Mt. Hood Meadows and its representatives are authorized to discourage and report to appropriate authorities:

- (1) incidents of offensive or derisive communication directed at any other person who is lawfully present when that communication has a direct tendency to cause acts of violence by the person to whom the remark is directed; and
- (2) communications or actions directed toward inciting imminent lawless action and likely to incite such action.

Mt. Hood Meadows may enforce Rules of Use, including a Rule of Use that prohibits the foregoing conduct, within the permit area and may remove persons who violate the Rules of Use. The Ski Area may use private security services or security guards and/or off-duty state or local law enforcement personnel to enforce the rules of use. The Ski Area may also call upon state or local law enforcement agencies to enforce violations of state or local law and forest service law enforcement officers to enforce violations of federal law.

Definitions:

The terms "skiing" and "skier" will also refer to "snowboarding" and snowboarders", and to any other users of the Ski Area.

The Ski Area Permit Holder will be referred to as the "Ski Area".

#### **The Ski Area may remove/trespass persons from the permit area for the following acts/behaviors:**

- Violations of state/federal/local laws or regulations
- Threats of violence or communications or actions likely to incite imminent violence or other imminent lawless behavior in others.
- Use of lifts, terrain parks, and/or half pipes without a valid lift ticket or pass.
- Unauthorized resale or purchase of lift ticket/pass, or any other fraudulent use or alteration of ticket/pass.
- Alcohol consumption while riding lifts or in lift lines.
- Actions likely to cause harm to self or others such as violation of closed areas, reckless/hazardous behavior on the slopes including, but not limited to, reckless jumping, out-of-control skiing or boarding, excessive speed in designated slow areas, or the unauthorized construction of jumps or obstacles.



- Sledding or tubing in unauthorized areas.
- Unauthorized public use of snowmobiles or other motorized vehicles in areas open to skiing.
- Unauthorized removal, destruction, defacing or relocation of any signs, barricades, rope lines, cones, or other warning or marking devices.
- Reckless or hazardous behavior on lifts that may endanger self or others such as jumping from lift, deliberate excessive swinging of chairs, climbing towers or in any way interfering with the safe operation of the equipment.
- Any conduct that interferes with the safe administration of avalanche control, including any failure to respect avalanche closures or posted hazards.
- Unauthorized overnight parking or camping
- Use of any unapproved/unauthorized equipment or downhill devices at the Ski Area
- Unleashed dogs, failing to pick up and appropriately dispose of dog feces, or dogs in inappropriate locations as described above.
- Any unauthorized instruction, lessons or coaching or the advertizing there of

## **2. Tubing Hill**

Tubing may be located in the main base area under the operation of the Snow Sports Learning Center.

## **3. Boundary Management Policy**

Mt. Hood Meadows has both internal and exterior boundaries designating closed areas. As stated above in the Rules of Use the Ski Area may remove/trespass persons for violations of closed areas. Mt. Hood Meadows will sign these designated closed areas and the permit area boundary.

## **4. Ski Patrol**

The Ski Area shall provide a trained area ski patrol with sufficient personnel, equipment and facilities to accomplish first aid and transportation of injured skiers with reasonable speed and efficiency. Additionally, the patrol shall be responsible for general trail risk management and avalanche control. It is recognized that skiers and snowboarders accept the inherent risks of the sport and that they must comply with their statutory duties under Oregon law.

The following records shall be established to enable the Forest Service administering officer to verify compliance with this Plan:

- a. Skier Incident Forms
- b. Training Sessions (toboggan handling, etc.)
- c. Trail Opening/Closing
- d. Signs

Avalanche Control and Training Records will be kept at Patrol HQ.

## **5. Avalanche Control Plan**

The Ski Area is responsible for avalanche control within the Ski Area boundary. There are three methods of remote delivery of explosives for avalanche control in use at the Ski Area.

The Ski Area maintains an avalanche pipe and a gas-operated avalauncher for shooting explosives into the A-Zone area.

The Ski Area shall provide reasonable public notification when the operation of remote delivery systems is planned.

The Department of the Army loans Model 101 105mm Howitzer artillery pieces to the Mt. Hood National Forest and sells 105mm Howitzer ordnance to the Mt. Hood National Forest. The National MOA between the Department of the Army and the USDA Forest Service dictates the terms governing the loan of the artillery and the sale of the ordnance to the Forest Service.

The Forest Service shall over see the operation, security and administration of the Military Weapon Program (Howitzer) for avalanche reduction at the Ski Area. Designated Ski Area personnel shall be responsible for daily operations and maintenance of the weapon.

The Ski Area shall provide an Avalanche Control Leader currently trained in control, prevention and rescue techniques. In addition to the Leader, there shall be a sufficient number of trained personnel available to assist the Leader when necessary.

It is recognized that avalanche control is intended to reduce and not eliminate the potential for snow slides in the natural mountain environment. It is also recognized that skiers and snowboarders accept the inherent risks of the sport, and that they must comply with their statutory duties under Oregon law.

A detailed Avalanche Control Plan and Howitzer Standard Operating Procedures are kept at the Ski Area.

## 6. Slope Grooming Policy

Slope maintenance is generally performed during evening or early morning hours prior to opening for the public. Grooming will occasionally occur during normal operating hours.

**Operators will be trained to avoid damage to trees, especially whitebark pine in the terrain served by Cascade Express and Vista Express.**

Grooming will only occur when adequate snow coverage exists to keep grouse from disturbing soils. A beginner's route, constructed of snow, may be built from Vista Ridge to Mitchell Creek to circumvent steep terrain. This route may go beyond the permit boundary a minor distance and return into the permit area, but no permanent signing or ground disturbing roadbed will be placed outside the permit area.

## 7. Signage Policy

The National Forest will be recognized throughout the mountain on permanent signage as well as temporary signage during events.

As required in the special use permit, the Forest Service shall approve proposed signage. Signs will not be nailed to trees.

The Ski Area shall establish and maintain a sign program throughout the Ski Area.

As a minimum, signing shall:

- a) Identify the run and the degree of difficulty

● EASIER      ■ MORE DIFFICULT      ◆ MOST DIFFICULT  
◆◆ EXPERTS ONLY

- b) Provide reasonable direction, i.e., restaurants, base area, lifts

## COMPLIANCE WITH SIGN PROGRAM

The Forest Service administering officer may check compliance with the sign program by inspecting the daily patrol station checklists.

### **8. Lift Operations**

The Ski Area is responsible for the inspection and maintenance of all lifts in accordance with the most current American National Standards Institution Code (ANSI).

The Forest Service Permit Administrator or Tramway Engineer may review inspections and operation of all lifts by periodic monitoring of the lift operations/maintenance logs.

The Ski Area will compile the records required by its insurance carrier and ANSI and will be reviewed by the Forest Service, as well as by on-sight monitoring.

Records are kept in the Lift Maintenance Department office located in the Admin building.

### **9. General Safety, Sanitation, Mass Casualty, and Communications**

The Ski Area is responsible for maintaining a General Safety, Sanitation, Mass Casualty, and Communications Plan describing how these activities will be accomplished.

### **10. Communications**

The Ski Area shall provide a system which will supply effective communications throughout the Ski Area for normal operating procedures, aid to the injured and emergency situations during all operations.

#### **TELEPHONES**

A telephone system will be maintained so that there is contact between all major operation points. A directory will be placed by phones.

#### **TWO-WAY RADIOS**

A radio communications system will be established. Radios will be distributed among key personnel whose duties relate directly to public health & risk management, i.e., lift operations and ski patrol. The Forest Service permit administrator has a radio with the Ski Area's UFH frequencies.

### **11. Ski School – Ski and Snowboard Lessons**

The Ski Area has the exclusive right to operate a ski/rider school within the permitted area if it chooses to do so. If a ski/rider school is operated, the director must be a certified instructor or experienced and qualified to the satisfaction of the Forest Supervisor. The director must be capable of instructing and directing others in giving competent instruction in all degrees of skiing and riding proficiency.

The Forest Service administering officer may verify compliance by periodic monitoring tours with a member of ski/rider school management.

### **12. Snowmaking and Night Skiing**

Snowmaking is authorized at the base area (Buttercup, bottom of Blue/Mt Hood Express, Erik's Corner) contingent on the Ski Area having permitted water rights. Snowmaking pipes and equipment are temporary on-top-of-ground at this time. Permanent infrastructure requires NEPA. Lighting for night skiing is approved by the 1978 and 1997 Master Development Plans. New lighting will require the appropriate NEPA.

### 13. Explosives

The use of explosives is essential in the Ski Area's operations. Explosives are necessary to avalanche control work. The primary concern at all times is public and employee health & risk management. Mt. Hood Meadows operates four Type II magazines and one Type IV cap magazine. The Forest Service oversees the operation, security and administration of an additional magazine for the storage of ordnance for the Military Weapons Program (Howitzer).

With the exception of the Military Weapons Program (Howitzer) the use, handling and storage of explosives must conform to all Federal regulations. U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) is the regulatory agency. All Responsible Persons and Employee Possessors will have undergone a credit and criminal background checks and are included on the Notice of Clearance with the Ski Areas Federal Explosives License.

If it is determined that the use or storage of explosives create an unacceptable hazard to facilities or human life, all blasting operations shall cease immediately.

Locks on magazines will be changed annually and more often when personnel changes take place with employees using explosives. The Ski Area will establish security standards for the distribution and safeguarding of magazine keys. Inventories for each magazine or cache shall be kept in the individual magazine. These inventories shall show the amount of explosives on hand and a day-by- day breakdown of use. Inventories will be conducted by personnel responsible for removing and adding explosives to the inventory. Weekly inspections of the magazines will occur to check on security of the magazines.

No explosives components will be assembled in public areas.

The Forest Service administering officer may verify compliance by checking inventories and on-sight use of explosives.

#### Emergency contacts and custodians for magazines

Name	Day Phone	Evening Phone
Melissa Toney	503-337-2222 ext 1257	541-490-9233
Steve Warila	503-337-2222 ext 1206	541-991-1157

#### Inspections

The Ski Area's explosives magazines located on national Forest land shall be inspected annually by qualified Forest Service personnel. The inspection may be waived if the Ski Area provides information that an inspection by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has occurred within the calendar year.

The permittee will inspect magazines used to store explosives at least every seven days. The purpose of the inspection is to determine whether there has been unauthorized entry or attempted entry into the magazine or unauthorized removal of the contents of the magazine.

#### Explosive Magazine Security

Mt Hood Meadows has an Explosive Security Plan (ESP) that contains the following information for each explosive magazine on National Forest land. The ESP is kept at the main ski patrol office and maintained by the Director of Risk Management and Patrol. The ESP includes:

- a. Name and Location
- b. Type (1-5)
- c. Name and day and evening telephone numbers of emergency contact
- d. Name and day and evening telephone numbers of custodian.
- e. Quantity and type of explosives generally stored.
- f. Type of Military weapon (if applicable).
- g. Quantity and type of munitions generally stored (where applicable).

- h. Special security features, such as alarm systems (where applicable).

### **Inventories**

The holder shall annually take a physical inventory of explosives stored within the permit area and keep a daily summary of magazine transactions for each magazine used to store explosive materials.

### **Magazine Key Control and Security**

Magazine key control and security protocol are found in the Explosive Security Plan. The plan contains the following:

- a. A key inventory listing all those who have been issued magazine keys.
- b. State that magazine keys will be issued only to Ski Area personnel authorized to possess explosive materials.
- c. Locks on magazines shall be changed immediately if damaged or if keys are unaccounted for or stolen.
- d. Locks on magazines shall be changed every year and document the change.
- e. Document when locks are changed.
- f. Document how keys are safeguarded.

### **Background Investigations**

The ski area shall request the BATF to conduct background checks on all employees authorized to possess explosive materials.

This statement is in the ESP also. Also, the ESP lists all employees authorized to possess explosive materials including listing gunners and loader/handlers for military ordnance where applicable.

### **Disposal of Expired or Deteriorated Explosives**

The Ski Area will remove from the magazine any explosive that has deteriorated to the extent that it is in an unstable or dangerous condition and destroy it in accordance with the manufacture's instructions.

### **Magazine Housekeeping**

The ski area shall keep magazines clean, dry, and free of grit, paper, rubbish, and empty packages and containers. Within a 25 foot area surrounding magazines, clear all rubbish, brush, dry grass and trees, except live trees more than 10 feet tall and living foliage which is used to stabilize the earthen covering of a magazine need not be removed. Also, volatile material within 50 feet of the magazine needs to be removed.

### **Signage**

Signage on magazines shall comply with BATF guidelines.

### **Assembly of Explosives**

ESP identifies where explosives are assembled. Assembly sites should comply with BATF Table of distances.

#### **14. Fire, Health & Sanitation Plan**

The Oregon State Fire Marshall, Hood River County Health Department, as well as insurance companies (both property and worker's compensation carriers) actively inspect the facilities and operations owned by the resort. This section will contain fire suppression protocol for on mountain facilities.

The resort maintains a separate file of all fire, health and sanitation inspections and other reviews in the applicable director's office. These files are available for inspection by the Winter Sports Administrator or designee at any time.

As a function of Ranger District's monitoring role of the Special Use Permit, Forest Service representatives may from time to time participate in insurance and/or regulatory agency inspections and reviews.

#### **15. Law Enforcement**

- The USFS is responsible for enforcing National Forest regulations as established in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations.
- The Ski Area will cooperate with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in the performance of their respective duties, i.e., enforcement of local ordinances, state laws, etc.
- The Hood River County Sheriff has jurisdiction to enforce county and state law on the Ski Area.
- The Oregon State Police has jurisdiction to enforce state law on the Ski Area.
- The Ski Area reserves the right to refuse to sell a ticket or any other products to an individual that has repeatedly demonstrated the inability or unwillingness to comply with the Ski Area's Rules of Use.
- Ski Area is responsible for enforcement of approved "Rules of Use" for special restrictions.

#### **16. Special Events**

Special events such as promotional, group, Ski Area, and community, regional, national, and international races, concerts, and firework displays may be conducted from time to time. Fireworks are approved for winter holidays and Saturday nights if desired.

#### **17. Closures Due to Extreme Conditions**

From time to time, extreme weather (i.e. high winds), certain snow conditions (i.e. avalanche, or reduced snow depths due to skier traffic, grooming, and / or warm temperatures), or power outages may require that operations must be curtailed for a period of time in the affected areas. Such curtailment may be as limited as a single trail or as extensive as the entire ski facility. The responsibility for any such closure ultimately rests with Lift Operations/Maintenance and Ski Patrol or upper management.

#### **18. Advertising Policy**

Ski Area will comply with USFS R6 Pacific Northwest guidelines regarding outdoor advertising on public lands. Only temporary advertising banners during events or permanent ads on chairlift safety bars are authorized.

#### **19. Commercial Filming & Still Photography Policy**

A special use permit for **still photography** is required if any of the following situations apply:

- 1) When it includes the use of models or props, which are not a part of a site's natural or cultural resources or administrative facilities,
- 2) If such photography takes place at locations where members of the public are generally not allowed.
- 3) If it occurs where additional administrative costs are likely.

Unless one or more of those conditions exist, a permit for still photography cannot be required.

If the sale of photographs takes place on NFS lands, a permit would be required.

This activity would also need to be permitted (via either a separate permit to the photographer, or included as an authorized use under the provisions of the outfitting/guiding permit) if it were being conducted by an employee or agent of the outfitting and guiding operator, including any party who had entered into a contractual relationship to do so with the holder of the outfitting and guiding special use permit. These types of commercial still photography activities are also often included with other authorized uses such as resorts, Ski Areas, marinas, etc. When associated with one of these types of authorized uses, the same principles described in the aforementioned discussion would apply.

Commercial filming or photographic companies; televised programs; and motion picture productions requesting to use permitted lands for promotional purposes not directly related to promotion of the Mt. Hood Meadows, the Ski Area or filming company will make application for a Commercial Filming Special Use Permit through the permit administrator.

Still and motion photography performed by Mt. Hood Meadows or Mt. Hood Meadows photographers for the purposes of developing marketing material for the Ski Area does not require a special permit.

## **20. Erosion Control**

The Ski Area will comply with the current Erosion Control Plan and BMP's coordinated with the District Permit Administrator, Hydrologist and Soils Scientist for each new ground-disturbing project. Only native vegetation will be used (seed, plugs or transplants). Erosion control may consist of hydroseeded tackifiers, EC matting, mulch or a combination of all. If straw mulch is used, it will be from eastside wheat that is certified weed-free. Water diversion structures will be maintained on all service roads. Drainage dips or cuts will be maintained as often as needed to assure they will function.

## **21. Accident Reporting**

Investigations will be initiated following severe accidents. The Ski Area will immediately inform the Forest Service about fatalities and certain categories of suspected life threatening injuries that result from accidents.

## **22. Search and Rescue (SAR)**

Ski patrol is responsible for SAR work within the Ski Area boundary. Hood River County Sheriff is responsible for a guest(s) who is lost outside the Ski Area boundary, but patrol may initiate SAR if desired.

## **23. Vegetation Management**

The Ski Area may remove trees that are not an inherent risk of the sport and that pose an immediate hazard to the public or property – the Permit Administrator should be consulted in advance if possible. All other tree removal will be approved in advance. The Ski Area will maintain a database tracking the amount of acreage where trees are removed or planted. Whitebark pine islands will be protected from mechanical damage as much as possible but pine/fir/hemlock/willows growing in developed ski trails may be topped or removed. Removal of all small trees growing up into such trails may occur anytime the Ski Area finds the need to without advanced authorization. Use of mechanical mowers for brush removal is authorized. If used on wetland brush, the mowing will not occur until the seasonal wetlands are dry. Removal of brush from permanent wetlands will be accomplished with hand tools.

The Ski Area, with the Forest Services' help, is responsible for monitoring and mitigating the invasive plant species. Known invasive plant locations will be monitored annually and such weeds will be pulled by hand unless an infestation requires the use of herbicides. All off-road construction equipment used for projects will be power washed off the National Forest to eliminate as many potential noxious weed

seeds as possible. Other vehicles owned by the ski area will be used carefully in locations along Highway 35 where they might pick up knapweed plants and spread seed back into the Ski Area.

#### **24. Designated Representative**

Tom Spangler, Woody Hoye and Steve Warila are the principal representatives. Mel Toney and Jami LaMaita are other contacts for risk management and/or personnel issues.

#### **25. Nordic Trail System**

A Nordic trail system and shelter are operated from the Hood River Meadows parking area. The trail system is groomed and patrolled by the Ski Area.

#### **26. Terrain Parks**

The Ski Area operates terrain parks, rail parks, and half-pipes which are constructed primarily by snowcat.

#### **27. Operational NEPA Requirements**

The 1997 Master Plan ROD contains mitigation measures that affect both new developments and operations. The ROD shall be reviewed annually by department heads to assure operational compliance.

#### **28. Spill Prevention and Cleanup**

The Ski Area will train all personnel to properly fuel equipment to prevent spills. Spills will be immediately dealt with using appropriate equipment. Hydraulic spills on snow will be bagged and deposited in the maintenance building for disposal in the oil separator. Fuel spills on the parking lot will be contained with absorbent logs and spill blankets. All cleanup materials will be disposed of lawfully. DEQ will be notified of all spills over 45 gallons and any size spill that reaches a stream.

#### **29. Salting**

The Ski Area may use salt for improving and holding snow conditions in warm weather. The Ski Area will monitor Mitchell Creek for salt content before, during and after salting season and make monitor data available to the forest. Data should include the amount of solar salt used each season.

#### **30. Parking Lots**

The Ski Area has three parking lots designated as Snow Parks by (ODOT); the Main Parking Lot, The Hood River Meadows Parking Lot, and the Annex Lot. The Main Parking Lot and the Hood River Lot are cleared of snow by the Oregon Department of Transportation. The Annex Lot is cleared of snow by the Ski Area.

When it is deemed necessary by the Ski Area Management the Ski Area shall have the authority to closed access to the parking lots.

### **III. The Ski Area Facilities and Operations**

#### **A. Winter Operating Schedule**

The Ski Area plans to commence skiing operations as soon as adequate snow conditions allow each fall. Adequate snow is defined as deep enough that snowcat grouzers do not tear into the soil.



The Ski Area generally schedules to open the lifts at 9:00 AM daily and run until 4:00. Night skiing until 10:00 PM is offered Wednesday thru Sunday, although exceptions of earlier and later operating hours occur.

## **B. Resort Facilities on USFS Administered Lands**

**All proposed developmental projects will be submitted to the Forest Service by September of the previous year (or sooner) to start a review and NEPA process.**

- **Existing Restaurant and Other Facilities:**

North and South Lodges  
HRM Skier Services Building  
Mazot Snack Hut  
Nordic Trailer

- **Other Existing Facilities:**

Admin Building and Trailer  
Maintenance Building  
Old Sewage Treatment Plant – storage building  
Race Buildings  
Sewage Treatment Plant plus water quality monitoring stations in East Fork Hood River and Mitchell Creek  
Clinic adjacent to the bottom terminal of Daisy leased to Providence Hospital.

- a. All structures will comply with county and state building codes.
- b. Access & Egress: All applicable access and egress codes meet UBC regulations
- c. Fire Protection  
Commercial kitchen facilities have appropriate hood fire suppression devices. Fire extinguishers are located throughout the facility, as codes require. Fire and evacuation plans are posted in the buildings and personnel are trained in public evacuation and fire suppression procedures.
- d. Snow & Ice Removal:  
Facilities Maintenance performs roof snow removal when necessary. Janitorial staff is responsible for deck and emergency stairway snow removal.

- **Sanitation**

The Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) will be operated according to DEQ standards. Monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports prepared for DEQ will be made available to the Permit Administrator upon request.

- **On-Mountain Fuel Storage Site**

Two buried fuel tanks (gas and diesel) are located at the maintenance building. Another buried diesel tank at the maintenance building services emergency generators. There are two propane tanks owned and serviced by Ferrell Gas. A large propane tank is located between Buttercup and the main parking lot and powers HVAC systems and kitchens. A small propane tank is located adjacent to the Annex Parking Lot and serves F&B and Lift Operations heaters.

- **Patrol Facilities**

Facilities include:

- a. Patrol headquarters, near the top of the Blue chairlift, dispatches patrollers to all terrain. The top of Cascade Express Chairlift is used to stage patrollers when that lift is running.
- b. Patrol Locker room located above the Providence Mountain Clinic adjacent to the Daisy Chair and the Maintenance building

- **Other Facilities**

- a. USFS Howitzer Building
- b. Reliance Connects Utilities Building

