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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort Master Development Plan Wallowa-Whitman National Forest—Union, Baker and Grant Counties, Oregon

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort's (ALMR) proposed Master Development Plan (MDP). The proposed development includes construction of one new chairlift, relocation of the existing handle tow and replacement with a short chairlift, and construction of one new surface lift. In addition, the proposed MDP includes the addition of approximately 1.2 acres of ski terrain, renovation of the day lodge, construction of a small on-mountain food services facility, enlargement of parking areas by 2.4 acres, an addition to the maintenance shop, construction of a snowmobile rental and staging area, and other utilities and infrastructure required to support resort upgrades.

The agency gives notice of the full environmental analysis and decision-making process that will occur on the proposal so that interested and affected people may become aware of how they may participate and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received by January 11, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments concerning this proposal to Charles L. Ernst, District Ranger, 3165 10th Street, Baker City, Oregon 97814. Fax: 5(41) 523–1965.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Direct questions about the proposed action and EIS to Charles L. Ernst, District Ranger, 3165 10th Street, Baker city, Oregon 97814. Phone (541) 523–4476.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action would increase the year-round recreational opportunities within the existing Special Use Permit Boundary (2,046 acres). Implementation of the proposed MDP would increase the Comfortable Carrying Capacity (CCC) from 600 Skiers-At-One-Time (SAOT) to 1,200 SAOT.

Presently, alpine skiing/snowboarding and other resort activities are provided to the public through a Special Use Permit (SUP) issued by the Forest Service and administered by the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (WWNF).

Purpose and Need: To resolve existing operational deficiencies at ALMR. To meet public expectations for quality recreational experiences through the improvements proposed at ALMR in the MDP.

The purpose of the proposed action and alternatives considered is to equip ALMR with the necessary base area and on-mountain amenities to meet current and anticipated future demand for alpine recreation and the expectations of the skiing public on the WWNF at ALMR. The specific proposed improvements are oriented toward the rehabilitation of the resort by rectifying existing deficiencies and providing a resort-wide balance of capacities. In addition, the proposed action would provide financial stability and growth potential to ALMR, while respecting natural resources and other issues of importance to the Forest Service and the public, thereby insuring that ALMR provides the public with a quality recreational experience with the implementation of the MDP and into the future.

Review and analysis of the relevant national and local market data indicate there is an ever-increasing level of customer awareness of quality, service, and value in the ski experience. Progressive ski areas have catered to the changing demands of the skier population by providing quality accommodations, a heightened service orientation, a refined, and technologically improved ski experience, and other recreational amenities. Ski areas that have invested in faster and more comfortable ski lifts, snowmaking capabilities, terrain expansion, and increased trail grooming have created higher expectation of quality and service among the skiing public. ALMR competes with other ski areas in the local and regional marketplace, the majority of which have recently made or are in the process of undertaking substantial facilities improvements. Conversely, declines in capital investment for facilities upgrades at ALMR have led to erosion of market share and may eventually lead to a decline in skier visitation. The need for the proposed action is generally demonstrated by the stagnation of skier visitation to ALMR over the past decade and evidence of significant export of skier visits to other ski resorts, particularly outside the local market. Stagnant visitation has occurred despite population growth in the local market area. On this basis, actions proposed under the MDP are necessary for ALMR to remain competitive, and to provide the level of customer service expected by the skiing public and the Agency.

The Proposed Action: The proposed action would increase recreational opportunities within the existing SUP area (2,046 acres). Implementation of the proposed MDP would increase the CCC from 600 SAOT to 1,200 SAOT. The proposed development includes: construction of one new chairlift; replacement of the handle tow with a short chairlift; construction of one new surface lift; addition of approximately 1.2 acres of ski terrain; expansion of the existing day lodge; construction of a small on mountain food service facility; seasonal use of a yurt (circular tent); snowmobile rental and staging facility to support ongoing public use of National Forest System lands to the north of the resort; a 2.4 acre expansion of parking areas; expansion of the maintenance facility and other utilities and infrastructure required to support the proposed MDP.

Management Direction: The proposed MDP tiers to the *Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan* (Forest Plan) as amended. The ALMR SUP area is located within Management Area 16—Administrative and Recreation Site Retention. Although alpine and downhill skiing are not directly addressed in the Forest Plan, pertinent direction is presented on pages 4–92 and 4–93. For a more detailed

description of Management Area 16, refer to the Forest Plan.

Public Involvement: Public Involvement will be especially important at several points during the analysis, beginning with the scoping process. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, local agencies, tribes and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in, or affected by the proposals. The scoping process includes:

1. Identifying and clarifying issues.
2. Identifying key issues to be analyzed in depth.
3. Exploring alternatives based on themes which will be derived from issues recognized during scoping activities.
4. Identifying potential environmental effects of the proposals and alternatives (i.e., direct, indirect, and cumulative effects and connected actions).
5. Determining potential cooperating agencies and task assignments.
6. Developing a list of interested people to keep apprised of opportunities to participate through meetings, personal contacts, or written comments.
7. Developing a means of informing the public through the media and/or written material (e.g., newsletters, correspondence, etc.).

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Part 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protest trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requestor of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without names and addresses within thirty (30) days.

Public comments are appreciated throughout the analysis process. The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in October 1999 and will be available for public review at that time. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. The final EIS is scheduled for completion in April of 2000.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice of this early stage of public participation and of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of the draft EIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's positions and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp.* v. *NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived or dismissed by the court if not raised until after the completion of the final EIS. *City of Angoon* v. *Hodel*, 803 f.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir, 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc.* v. *Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the comment period so substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider and respond to them in the final EIS.

In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to substantive comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making a decision regarding the proposal. The responsible official is Karyn L. Wood, Forest Supervisor for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The responsible official will document the decision and reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to appeal under 36 CFR part 215 or part 251.

Dated: December 2, 1998.

Kurt R. Wiedenmann,

Acting Forest Supervisor, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List Addition

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Addition to the procurement list.

SUMMARY: This action adds to the Procurement List a service to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 11, 1999.

ADDRESS: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Gateway 3, Suite 310, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202–4302.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman (703) 603–7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 9, 1998, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published a notice (63 FR 54436) of proposed addition to the Procurement List.

The Following Comments Pertain to Janitorial/Custodial, U.S. Couthouse and Annex, Tallahassee, Florida

Comments were received from the current contractor for this janitorial service. The contractor noted that a number of its Federal janitorial projects had been lost to the Committee's Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program or the Small Business Administration's 8(a) Program over the past several years. The contractor also noted changes in its gross revenues over the past five years as evidence of the impact of these project losses.

Those projects lost by the contractor which were added to the JWOD Program, with the exception of the instant one and two others, were added between October 1989 and January 1992. In assessing the severity of impact on a contractor of the addition of a project to the JWOD Program, the Committee concentrates on the cumulative impact of its actions over the most recent three years unless there is compelling evidence of the continuing effects of prior impacts. The reason for this is that contractors which are still in existence are generally assumed to have recovered from previous impacts. This contractor's sales increased throughout the period of the earlier previous impacts. While the contractor's estimated revenues for the current fiscal year are below those of five years ago, it should be noted that