

# Mount Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park Ski Area Expansion Plan of Development

Approved by Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission  
November 20, 2014

## 1. Introduction

Mount Spokane State Park is the largest park in the state park system at over 13,000 acres. Within Mount Spokane State Park, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks) has authorized an existing alpine ski area known as the Mount Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park that is currently operated under a concession agreement with a Spokane area non-profit known as Mount Spokane 2000 (MS 2000). The area under agreement with MS 2000 for the Mount Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park encompasses 1,425 acres or about 10% of the park.

## 2. Proposed Action

The proposed action - identified as Alternative 3 in the Mount Spokane State Park Proposed Ski Area Expansion Final Environmental Impact Statement dated October 2014 - includes the construction of a new chairlift (Chair 6), seven new ski trails, and accompanying infrastructure to support these proposed improvements. The expansion will encompass 279 acres within the existing MS 2000 concession area. Under the proposed action, approximately 80 acres of formal ski trails will be constructed within the expansion area. The number of chairlift towers has not been determined pending final design, but it is estimated at 24. Each tower footing will require approximately 100 square feet of ground disturbance. The lower loading terminal of the proposed chairlift will be located at approximately 4,420 feet in elevation and will require approximately 0.75 acre of excavation and grading. The new top terminal near the summit of Mount Spokane will be located approximately 250 feet in distance from the top terminal of Chair 1 at an elevation of approximately 5,850 feet, and will require approximately 0.5 acre of excavation and grading.

Development of the new chairlift and seven new trails under the proposed action will require approximately 59 acres of tree removal and approximately 15 acres of grading. The proposed action will increase the acreage of lift-served ski terrain by approximately 279 acres and include the development of approximately 80 acres of formal ski trails. Where practical, the new trails will be located to avoid potential impacts to vegetation, by utilizing existing meadows, trails, and openings in the forest canopy. The remaining 521 acres within the 800-acre PASEA would not be managed as lift-served terrain.

## 3. Requirements Prior to Tree Removal and Construction

Prior to any construction or tree removal activity, the following must occur:

**MS 2000 will obtain all necessary federal, state and local permits prior to any on the ground project construction activities.** All permit packets will require State Parks' sign-off prior to submittal. State Parks will review permit packets in a timely manner, but the review will need to be coordinated with other agency priorities. Construction activities will not commence until authorized by State Parks. *No construction or tree clearing will occur until permits for all phases of development are in hand, unless*

*otherwise approved as provided under section 7.* If an appeal is lawfully filed, no work may proceed if there is an injunction or other order imposed by an applicable court or administrative body prohibiting the performance of construction or tree clearing and the conditions of such order are complied with.

Once detailed construction documents are developed, all necessary consultations, permits, and approvals will be acquired from the regulatory agencies identified in Table 1. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be prepared by MS 2000 to provide documentation for, and to obtain a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit for construction activities, as required. The SWPPP will include the development of project-specific Mitigation Measures. Project-specific Mitigation Measures and permit conditions from all construction permits will be incorporated into construction documents and permit applications when judged necessary by the regulatory agencies. The SWPPP will be approved by the Spokane County Building and Planning Department. Should the Spokane County Building and Planning Department or any other permitting agency require any design change or otherwise modify or condition MS 2000’s development plan, MS 2000 shall submit the design change or condition to State Parks for approval, and such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

**Table 1:  
Summary of Permits, Approvals, and Consultation for the Proposed Action**

| Agency                                          | Action/Regulation                                                  | Description of Permit/Action                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>STATE</b>                                    |                                                                    |                                                                    |
| Washington Department of Ecology                | National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit.            | Stormwater Permit for stormwater discharges at construction sites. |
| <b>LOCAL</b>                                    |                                                                    |                                                                    |
| Spokane County Building and Planning Department | Building Permit                                                    | Authorize construction of chairlift terminals                      |
|                                                 | Clearing and Grading Permit/Timber Harvesting/Critical Area Review | Authorize clearing, excavation and fill for ski trail construction |

**MS 2000 will develop a tree cutting plan addressing project timing, cutting methods and logistics, site access and treatment of downed trees, which will be submitted for State Parks’ review and approval.** To the greatest extent possible, the plan will minimize environmental impacts. No work may take place during sensitive wildlife breeding seasons (March 1- July 31, based on recommendations from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife). In addition, the plan must include proven strategies for reducing ground disturbance, insect impacts to residual trees, and fire risk.

**In consultation with State Parks, MS 2000 will develop a Landscape Management Plan for the site after construction, which must be submitted to State Parks for review and approval.** The plan will incorporate the following conceptual guidelines and may be updated as additional biological and physical data become available and ski area operation proceeds.

*Conceptual Guidelines for Landscape Management Plan:* At minimum, a finalized landscape management plan for the area must set allowed practices for modification or removal of vegetation and other landscape features (e.g., standing snags, coarse woody debris, boulders, and other terrain features) in developed ski runs and forested areas between them. This plan should have a spatial component that limits modification of natural features in areas necessary to protect wildlife habitat and other natural processes, while allowing selected activities to ensure a safe and enjoyable skiing

experience. This plan should also include a specific process with a predictable schedule for the concessionaire to obtain approval and coordinate on-going landscape maintenance activities, environmental review, and permitting with qualified State Parks staff.

#### Within developed ski runs

- Removal of trees, snags, downed logs, and other coarse woody debris is permitted in these areas.
- A viable diversity of low growing, self-perpetuating, native vegetation capable of flowering and fruiting shall be maintained to support communities of vascular and non-vascular plants, fungi, microflora and fauna, and to optimize water retention, control soil erosion, and limit introduction of sediments into streams.

#### Within tree islands between developed ski runs

- Removal of snags is permitted consistent with State Parks' tree risk assessment and abatement process. This process generally includes removing trees at high-risk of failure in areas with developed facilities and where people are expected to stay for extended periods of time (e.g., structures, lift terminals, lift towers and lift haul lines). Trees at high-risk of failure or snags along developed ski trails, except in areas where visitors may congregate or stop for periods of time (e.g., viewpoints, benches, signs/kiosks) will typically be left for habitat purposes.
- Any cutting or removal of native live trees or understory vegetation regardless of size will require prior approval by the Assistant Director – Parks Development as part of the agency's formal Tree Activity process and shall be limited to addressing safety concerns only (e.g., ingress/egress of ski patrol toboggans). Natural forest processes will otherwise be allowed to proceed in these areas. No forest health treatments are necessary and none are anticipated during the foreseeable future.

#### Undeveloped portion of PASEA north of proposed developed ski runs and east of Chair 4 Road

- A limited number of reduced tree density corridors necessary to allow for lift-served backcountry skiing, ski patrol access, and extrication of injured skiers including use of snowmobiles are permitted in this area. Any cutting or removal of native live trees less than ten inches at breast height will require prior approval by the park manager. Any cutting of trees greater than ten inches diameter at breast height will require prior approval by Assistant Director – Parks Development as part of the agency's formal Tree Activity process.
- Removal of downed logs and other coarse woody debris is only permitted where a specific high-risk condition has been identified by qualified MS2000 staff with risk management expertise and removal is necessary to protect the safety of skiers. Alternatives to removal must be considered first and any removal will include consultation and approval by the park manager. Coarse woody debris should be left in place wherever possible and should not be removed as an across the board prescription.
- Treatment of standing snags and other trees at high-risk of failure consistent with State Parks' tree risk assessment and abatement process is permitted as described above.

#### Other guidelines and limitations

- Deviation from these conceptual guidelines may be appropriate in certain circumstances (e.g., specific measures to ensure the safety of ski area visitors) and may be permitted in future updates to the landscape management plan or related plans as approved by the Director.
- The Landscape Management Plan must include an integrated pest management (IPM) approach for addressing non-native vegetation, as required for state agencies under RCW 17.15. Strategies for preventing introduction of non-native species will be included. Within new ski runs and associated tree islands, no introduction of non-native plant species will be permitted. To achieve this goal, ongoing monitoring for non-native plants will be required.

Appropriate treatment actions will need to be taken promptly after any detection of any such plants.

- Depending on the type and extent of a landscape management prescription and the plants, animals, and natural systems potentially impacted, additional limitations may be imposed including limiting or avoiding work during critical periods in life cycles of wildlife, vascular and non-vascular plants, and fungi. Prescriptions may also be limited to certain periods or weather conditions to limit damage to plants and non-living natural landscape features (e.g., conducting tree removal over snow to protect understory vegetation).
- Depending on their type and extent, landscape management prescriptions may require on-going monitoring of impacts on natural features and systems and application of additional management prescriptions to correct unsatisfactory conditions.

**MS 2000 will contract with State Parks or a State Parks-approved archaeologist for completion of an initial archaeological survey.** The survey will focus on areas where ground disturbance is planned (formal ski runs, chair lift towers/terminals). If archaeological resources are found, ground disturbing activities must cease pending resolution of this issue to the satisfaction of State Parks.

**MS 2000 will obtain comprehensive liability insurance** as needed to ensure sufficient coverage for any potential damages related to the planned developments detailed in this document. Coverage shall not be less than one million dollars per occurrence, as required by RCW 79A.45.060, and two million dollars aggregate. MS 2000 will provide State Parks with current evidence of an insurance policy or certificate prior to initiating any on-the-ground work.

## **1. Construction Practices**

The majority of direct effects to resources will be related to treatments (clearing) for the development of the lift and associated ski trails. Approval of the proposed development is based on the clearing estimate shown in Table 2. These clearing widths are considered “worst-case.” Any clearing exceeding these widths would require specific State Parks’ approval. No permanent road construction will be allowed. Following tree felling (and possible removal) within the formal ski runs and prior to any construction within the formal ski run, all cut areas will undergo a second archaeological survey by State Parks archaeologists or a qualified designee approved by State Parks. If archaeological resources are found, ground disturbing activities must cease pending resolution of this issue to the satisfaction of State Parks.

A small crane or boom truck may be used for terminal construction. Equipment must access the site either over snow or, if snow free, utilizing a single, temporary access point. The equipment will remain onsite until construction is completed and will leave the site using the temporary access point. Lift terminals will be excavated by machine. Once construction is completed, any disturbed areas created by equipment accessing the site will be reseeded with native species and the temporary travel way vacated. State Parks will approve the species used for re-seeding. Grading for lift terminals and towers will be limited by construction envelopes listed in Table 2.

**Table 2:  
Mount Spokane Backside Expansion  
Clearing and Other Assumptions**

| Ski Area Component                | Clearing Requirement <sup>a</sup> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Ski Lift</b>                   |                                   |
| Alignment Clearing                | 60-foot corridor                  |
| Upper Terminal Ground Disturbance | 0.50 acre                         |
| Lower Terminal Ground Disturbance | 0.75 acre                         |
| Tower Ground Disturbance (each)   | 100 square feet                   |
| <b>Utility Lines</b>              |                                   |
| Power                             | 15-foot corridor                  |
| Communications                    | 15-foot corridor                  |
| Ski Trail                         | Average Width (ft.) <sup>b</sup>  |
| Proposed Trail 1                  | 122                               |
| Proposed Trail 2                  | 158                               |
| Proposed Trail 3                  | 169                               |
| Proposed Trail 4                  | 191                               |
| Proposed Trail 5                  | 60                                |
| Proposed Trail 6                  | 104                               |
| Proposed Trail 7                  | 170                               |

<sup>a</sup> “Worst case” estimate of clearing, grading, machinery operation, storage of spoils, etc.

<sup>b</sup> Trail widths are determined primarily by slope gradients, but also by other factors (e.g., planned usage, ability level goals). Formalization of each trail will not require the complete clearing and/or grading of the entire run length due to existing conditions (e.g., unvegetated, blowdown, meadow).

Treatment techniques for the proposed action include:

**Full Clearing:** To the extent practical, downed logs will be retained on site after felling. Consistent with the tree cutting plan, additional cutting and scattering of materials may be needed to address potential insect infestation risk. Trees presenting a safety concern if left in formal ski trails will be removed and stored in an existing off-site disturbed area. Trees will be cut flush to the ground and stumps will not be removed. The surface will not be graded and the natural ground cover will be maintained. Tree removal will be accomplished with hand-held equipment, or with processors, such as feller/bunchers.

**Full Clearing with Grading:** All trees will be removed within the construction limits, stumps will be removed, and the surface will be graded and re-vegetated with native species, where appropriate. State Parks will approve the species used for re-seeding. Grading will occur at all locations where structures are proposed (e.g., lift towers, terminal locations) and along key trails where a smooth surface is necessary. Grading may include the use of heavy equipment (e.g., excavators, bulldozers, etc.) for earthmoving. The removal of trees will be accomplished by hand-held equipment, or with processors such as feller/bunchers. After felling, all trees will be removed and stored in an existing disturbed area.

Tree Island Retention: Tree islands resulting from project implementation will be retained between the ski trails/lift corridor. These islands will be managed to allow natural processes to proceed. No cutting or removal of live trees or understory vegetation regardless of size is permitted, with the following exception. Removal of standing snags or other trees at high risk of failure may be considered in areas where said trees are within striking distance of developed facilities and where people are expected to stay for extended periods of time (e.g., structures, lift terminals, lift towers and lift haul lines). Any tree removal requires State Parks approval and will be accomplished with hand-held equipment.

In addition to the clearing prescription outlined above, ski trail clearing will include edge treatments that are intended to reduce the visual and biological effects of trail clearing and to enhance the skiing opportunities along the trail edge (see Illustrations 1 and 2 below). These prescriptions include:

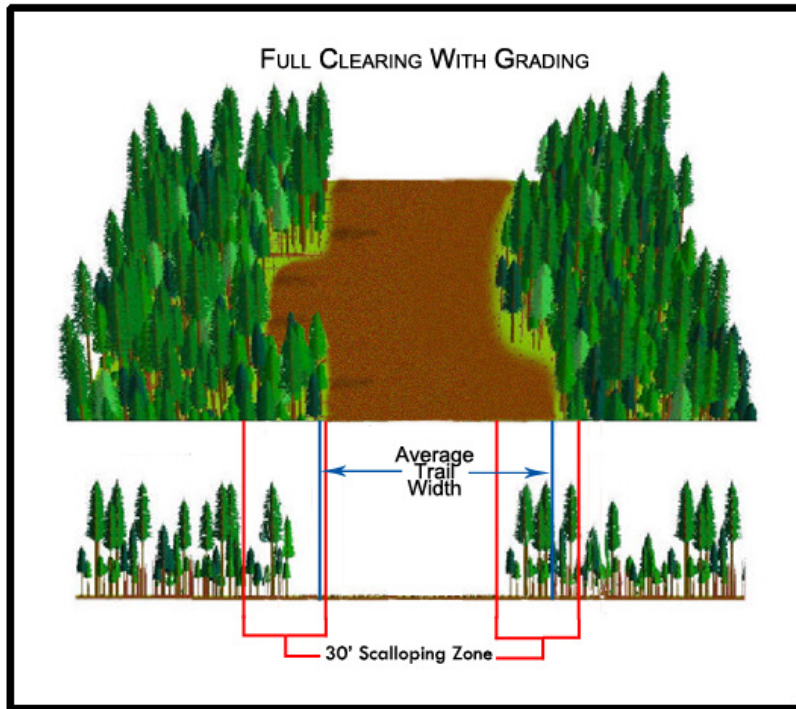
Forest Edge Scalloping: Flagging a separate limit of clearing boundary outside of the trail edge so the boundary is non-linear, in order to reduce visual impacts associated with straight trail edges. The limit of clearing will meander, or undulate, outside of, but adjacent to, the flagged trail edge, giving a more natural, irregular scalloped edge to the tree line. The limit of clearing will not exceed a maximum distance of 30 feet from the original flagged trail edge.

Forest Edge Feathering: Selectively removing trees along the limit of clearing, where appropriate, so that a hard line in the new trail-to-forest transition is not evident. The area to be thinned for forest edge feathering will be approximately 10 feet wide. Large trees (i.e., greater than 8 inches dbh) will be selectively removed starting at the limit of clearing, so that the tree density will get progressively lower toward the interior of the trail and within the 10-foot feathering area.

Ongoing clearing to maintain openings will occur over the life of the Concession Agreement.

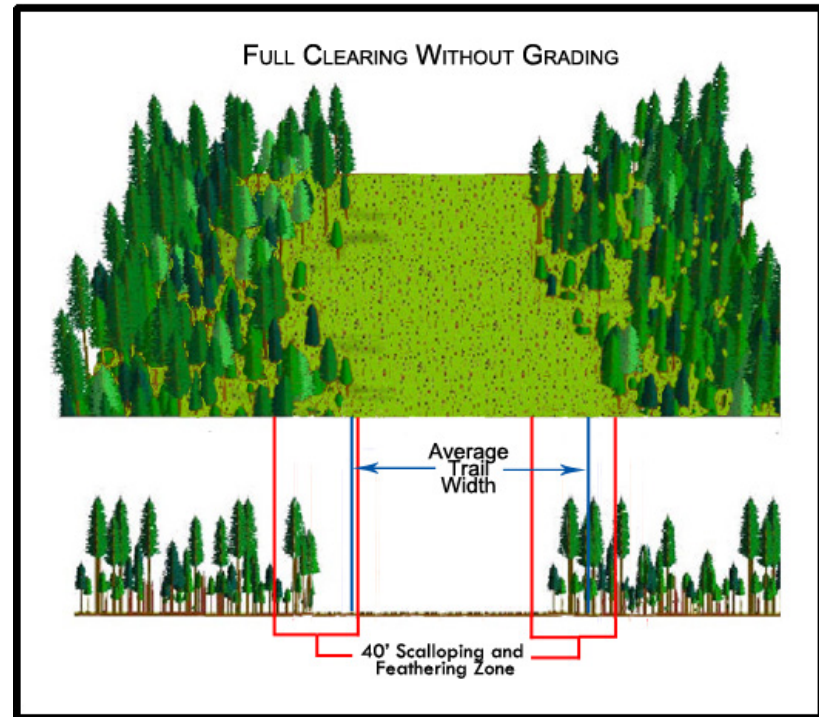
As described above, standard construction techniques will be used for erecting lift terminal structures. Access to terminal locations will occur over snow when possible and impacts will be minimized by making one entry and exit, where practical. Work may not occur during sensitive wildlife breeding seasons (March 1- July 31). Terminals will be constructed onsite and the footings will be excavated by machine. Equipment access to the terminal and tower locations will not require construction or reconstruction of a road. Lift tower footings will be excavated with hand-held equipment or with small, low impact excavators. Concrete for footings and lift towers will be pumped from a concrete truck.

**Illustration 1:  
Typical Full Clearing Treatment  
Scalloping with Grading**



Note: Not to scale – for illustrative purposes only.

**Illustration 2:  
Typical Full Clearing Treatment  
With Feathering and No Grading**



Note: Not to scale – for illustrative purposes only.

## 5. Operation and Management

The 279-acre expansion area contains highly significant and sensitive resources. As a result, natural resources in the ski area expansion will be managed to a higher standard than in the existing ski area on the front side of the mountain. Future goals should include improving management of natural resources in the existing area to meet standards set for the expansion area. The bar for resource protection should not be set at the minimum level legally required, but rather at the higher level reflected in this plan of development. Specifically:

- MS 2000 will pay for monitoring and correction of impacts, particularly those relating to erosion and non-native species. Disturbed areas targeted for re-seeding will be monitored and re-planted as needed to ensure long-term establishment of native species. No non-native vegetation will be introduced into the newly developed area. Ongoing monitoring will be needed to ensure early detection of any introduced species, and any non-native plants will be treated with the goal of eradication. Monitoring will be conducted by State Parks or a qualified contractor approved by State Parks. All vegetation management practices will be consistent with the landscape management plan identified under section 3 of this document.
- Developed ski runs will be managed for viable communities of self-perpetuating vegetation, capable of flowering and fruiting. Vegetation on formal ski trails may be mowed but will not be cut shorter than 18 – 24 inches. All vegetation management practices will be consistent with the landscape management plan identified under section 3 of this document.
- Formal ski trails may be groomed during winter to ensure a consistent snow surface. If snow levels become insufficient to provide protective cover for vegetation, runs will be closed.
- If species of conservation concern are found in the area and verified by a qualified wildlife biologist, temporary closures of affected areas may be implemented for their protection (under WAC 352-32-050).
- MS 2000 will maintain a stewardship fund of sufficient size necessary to implement the provisions of this plan.

## 6. Mitigation Measures

In order to minimize potential resource impacts from the proposed project, the Mitigation Measures detailed in Table 3 have been incorporated into the Proposed Action. For purposes of this analysis the definition of mitigation under SEPA can be found in WAC 19-11-768 where:

"Mitigation" means:

- (1) *Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action;*
- (2) *Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation, by using appropriate technology, or by taking affirmative steps to avoid or reduce impacts;*
- (3) *Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment;*
- (4) *Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action;*
- (5) *Compensating for the impact by replacing, enhancing, or providing substitute resources or environments; and/or*
- (6) *Monitoring the impact and taking appropriate corrective measures.*

Certain potential project impacts were avoided through project design (see 2.1.1 in the Mount Spokane State Park Proposed Ski Area Expansion Final Environmental Impact Statement dated October 31, 2014). Construction-related mitigation measures have been designed to reduce impacts of the project as planned (Table 3).

*In addition to the mitigation measures prescribed below, MS 2000 is required to incorporate any conditions of approval from Spokane County and other jurisdictional agencies during the permitting phase.*



### Actions to Avoid Impacts

Table 3 outlines mitigation measures and best management practices that shall be used in the implementation of this project.

Other mitigation measures relating to ongoing facility operations must be implemented, as outlined in sections 3 and 5 of this Plan of Development.

### Mitigation for Impacts that Cannot Be Avoided

Due to the unique nature of the expansion area, some impacts, such as habitat fragmentation, cannot be avoided or fully mitigated. State Parks will consider options to mitigate some of these impacts by:

1. Exploring opportunities for re-classifying portions of the park to increase protective land classifications (e.g., re-classifying Recreation to Resource Recreation or Resource Recreation to Natural Forest Area).
2. Working with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to identify high priority wildlife corridors and wintering habitat within or adjacent to the Mount Spokane State Park long-term boundary. Where willing sellers exist, prioritize seeking funds to acquire these properties. If fee simple acquisition is not possible, explore the potential for conservation easements.

**Table 3:  
Mitigation Measures and Best Management Practices**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>VEGETATION</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Understory vegetation will be preserved to the extent possible in all areas designated for flush cutting and/or overstory vegetation removal.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Prior to construction, the disturbance limits of the site will be flagged. Fencing, flagging, or a staked rope line will be established to denote the limits of construction proximate to sensitive resource boundaries.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Topsoil replacement, native plant seeding, and weed-free mulching (as necessary) will be used to stabilize disturbed soils in all areas where grading and soil disturbance would occur to promote native plant re-establishment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Re-vegetation will use native plants. Seed mixtures and mulches must be noxious weed-free. To prevent soil erosion, non-persistent, non-native perennials or sterile perennials may be used while native perennials become established.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Local seeding guidelines will be used to determine detailed procedures and appropriate mixes. Preference will be given to local seed sources, cultivars, and species available commercially. To avoid weed contamination, all seed purchased shall be certified weed-seed free.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Tree clearing limits will be marked to avoid errors in clearing limits during construction.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Before ground-disturbing activities begin, all equipment staging areas will be identified and located. Equipment wash stations will be established at the base of the ski area for construction activities. Each station shall have a filter system, for example at least 6 inches of large cinder or gravel spread over an area 10 ft. x 30 ft. Filter cloth may be used for temporary stations. The area would be a perched drainage to allow excess moisture to drain after being filtered. Equipment wash stations shall be located at least 200 yards from any natural drainage to avoid contamination. All soiled equipment shall be washed before entering and before leaving the expansion area. This includes construction personnel vehicles in addition to trucks and other heavy equipment. Equipment wash stations shall be monitored frequently and after completion of all construction activities. All weed materials shall be removed promptly. |
| All construction areas and roadways within the expansion area will be monitored annually for non-native plants by a qualified biologist; any non-native plants found will be treated with a goal of eradication.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Upon completion of ground-disturbing activities, effective ground cover (mulch) will meet minimum level of the pre-treatment habitat type.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| If any new populations of special status plant species are encountered during the construction process, work will be suspended in that area until State Parks is consulted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>WILDLIFE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| If the presence of any special status wildlife species is determined in the area affected by the Action Alternatives, a State Parks staff person, or equivalent specialist, will be immediately notified and management activities altered as appropriate. Public access to areas may be temporarily closed to protect these species, as authorized under WAC 352-32-050. If any new populations of special status species are encountered during the construction process, work will be suspended in that area until a State Parks staff person is consulted and potential adverse impacts avoided or mitigated.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| All large trees and snags located in proposed tree islands would be left standing unless they are identified by State Parks as a hazard. No formal ski trail clearing would occur within the proposed tree islands.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Where practical, trees felled during ski trail construction will be left within the trails long-term to provide additional wildlife habitat.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| During construction, measures to ensure that trash or refuse associated with construction is minimized will be enforced.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Construction will not take place during the critical wildlife breeding period (March 1 to July 31).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**Table 3:  
Mitigation Measures and Best Management Practices**

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| All construction activities will be confined to daylight hours, excluding emergencies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| No food/drink will be kept/stored in construction worker vehicles. All windows will be kept closed and doors locked on all vehicles to prevent bear entry.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>SOIL AND WATER</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| A grading and erosion control plan will be developed and submitted to Spokane County for review and approval prior to implementation of proposed project elements that include grading.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| MS 2000 will develop a Spill Prevention and Response Plan, which would be included in the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) as part of the construction documents. Fuel, oil and other hazardous materials will be stored in structures placed on impermeable surfaces with impermeable berms designed to fully contain the hazardous material plus accumulated precipitation for a period at least equal to that required to mitigate a spill. Petroleum products will not be discharged into drainages or bodies of water. No fuels or construction machinery will be stored within stream or wetland buffers.                                       |
| Project-specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans will include additional erosion protection (such as two rows of silt fence, straw bales and/or more permanent structures such as logs) to be provided between streams and construction areas close to stream channels. Water bars will be constructed within the newly disturbed areas to minimize downslope water movement through the site, and to direct sediment laden water away from stream channels. As specified in the project-specific SWPPP, water bars will be lined with erosion control fabric, sod, and/or mulch to prevent failures prior to the establishment of vegetation, as necessary. |
| Bridge crossings installed over intermittent/perennial channels will be completed in a single span to minimize in-water work. All footings will be constructed above the bankfull channel width. Additional short and long-term erosion control measures (e.g., erosion blanket, straw bales, rip-rap.) and water quality monitoring (e.g., pH, turbidity) will be specified in the SWPPP for the bridge crossing projects consistent with any permit requirements.                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Soil-disturbing activities will not be initiated during periods of heavy rain, spring runoff or excessively wet soils.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Immediately following completion of approved ground disturbing activities and seeding, all areas of ground disturbance will be mulched with weed-free straw, wood chips, bark, jute mat, etc.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| In all areas where grading or soil disturbance occurs, topsoil will be stockpiled and re-spread following slope grading and prior to re-seeding. The stockpiled soil will be protected from wind and water erosion.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| In areas compacted by construction activities, mechanical subsoiling or scarification to the compacted depth may be needed to reduce bulk density and restore porosity.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Vegetative buffers will be maintained adjacent to any intermittent or perennial drainages and wetlands and will be flagged or otherwise marked to provide protection during clearing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Check dams and sediment barriers (i.e., silt fence, weed-free hay bales, wattles, etc.) will be placed in all temporary erosion channels with minimum sufficient spacing to control runoff velocity and encourage sediment deposition. When check dams, sediment barriers, or sediment detention dams fill with sediment and exceed their design effectiveness, sediment will be excavated (by hand or mechanically) and removed from the site to a permanent upland storage area where erosion will not occur.                                                                                                                                                    |
| Logs and logging debris removal will minimize dragging or pushing through soil to minimize disturbances.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| In areas where site conditions necessitate (i.e., excessively steep slopes and/or highly erosive soil types), temporary sediment detention basins will be created to detain runoff and trap sediment. Sediment basins will be created within the overall disturbance limits of the applicable project elements. Temporary sediment basins will be reclaimed following reestablishment of permanent vegetation and would likewise be re-vegetated.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

**Table 3:  
Mitigation Measures and Best Management Practices**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>On steeper slopes (&gt;30% slope gradient), areas exposed by grading may require implementation of jute-netting or other appropriate measures to further stabilize disturbed soils. Installation will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeding and mulching of the disturbed area.</li> <li>• Burial of the top end of the netting in a trench of at least 4 inches depth and 8 inches width. The trench shall be backfilled and tamped.</li> <li>• Netting will extend beyond the edge of the mulched and/or seeded area at least 1 foot on the sides and 3 feet on the top and bottom.</li> <li>• The netting will be rolled downslope and secured with staples or pins.</li> <li>• Netting will overlap at least 4 inches on the sides and secured with staples 5 feet apart along the overlap.</li> <li>• The lower end of the uphill strip will overlap the downhill strip at least 1 foot and should be secured with staples 1 foot apart.</li> </ul> |
| <p>Fuel delivery and storage will be located, designed, constructed and maintained to reduce the potential and severity of spills.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p><b>GEOTECHNICAL</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p>Forest clearing in areas susceptible to mass wasting will be avoided to the extent practical during trail layout and construction. The area of grading and soil compaction will be reduced by limiting access by construction equipment, and drainage structures for stormwater and erosion control will not divert water into areas of mass wasting potential.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p>For projects proposed in areas susceptible to landslides or within slopes steeper than 60 percent, a qualified engineer or geologist will assist in the final design of ski area facilities to minimize the effects of unstable slopes.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <p><b>WETLANDS</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p>All ground disturbing activities will employ BMPs to avoid sediment migration from ground disturbance into wetlands.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p>Wetlands proximate to potential disturbance zones of project elements will be re-identified and flagged prior to the initiation of construction related-activities. Construction limits will be clearly defined prior to construction, including buffers required by the permit conditions of Spokane County</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p><b>AIR QUALITY</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <p>Grading areas will be watered, as necessary and practical, to prevent excessive amounts of dust. In the absence of natural precipitation, watering of these areas will occur as practical.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p>Any burning of cleared timber will occur when air quality standards would not be compromised.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p>All equipment will be properly tuned and maintained. Idling time will be minimized to the extent practical.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p><b>RECREATION</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p>Notices will be posted on summit trailheads and at the Vista House informing visitors about the possibility of encountering construction noise and activities within the expansion area. The notices would also identify where and when construction activities would be taking place</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p><b>SCENERY RESOURCES</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p>Where trees are removed, straight edges will be avoided. The edges of lift lines, trails and structures, where the vegetation is removed, will use a variable density cutting (feathering) technique applied to create a more natural edge that blends into the existing vegetative cover. Edges will be non-linear, and changes in tree heights along the edges of openings will be gradual rather than abrupt. Hard edges will be softened by selective removal of trees of different ages and heights to produce irregular corridor edges where possible.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p>Stumps will be cut as low as possible to the ground to avoid safety hazard.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

**Table 3:  
Mitigation Measures and Best Management Practices**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <p>Where needed, terrain will be re-graded to restore a natural appearance. Prior to grading, topsoil will be stripped and saved for re-vegetation. Where there is disturbed ground for new chairlifts, including terminals, towers and foundation placements, any excess material will be put back to the area with grading to avoid stockpile of material and maintain a natural appearance at transitions. Any site grading will blend disturbance into the existing topography to achieve a natural appearance and minimize cuts and fills at the transition with proposed grading and existing terrain.</p> |
| <p>Utilities must be buried, other than communication lines.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p>All disturbed areas will be re-vegetated after the site has been satisfactorily prepared. Seeding will be repeated until satisfactory re-vegetation is accomplished. Reseeding will involve a native seed mixture using a variety of native seed grasses and forbs.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <p>Buildings, towers, and terminals will be painted with a color blending with the area.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p>Chairlift terminals and towers will utilize muted colors to minimize the visual impact to the surrounding area. Bright colors are inappropriate for the forest setting. The colors will be muted, subdued colors because they blend well with the natural color scheme. The colors used for new facilities will include darker colors: greens, browns, navy blue, grays, and black.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <p><b>CULTURAL RESOURCES</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p>If any artifact or human remains are found during project activities, affected tribes and State Parks will be immediately notified and the work in the immediate area will cease.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p>If any culturally modified tree(s) are encountered during construction, the tree(s) would be retained and preserved. State Parks archaeologists or a professional State Parks designee will undertake a Phase I cultural resources survey in advance of timber removal and other project construction activities.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p>Identified cultural resources (i.e., artifacts, features, and sites) will be appropriately recorded with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p>Following tree removal within formal ski runs and prior to any construction within the formal ski runs, all harvest areas will undergo a Phase II cultural resources survey by State Parks archaeologists or a State Parks designee to identify additional cultural resources.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p>If human remains are found during project activities, interested tribes, DAHP, State Parks, and law enforcement personnel will be notified and all work in the immediate area will cease.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p>Results of Phase I and II survey will be compiled into a professional report of findings that complies with DAHP reporting standards. Cultural resources staff of the Spokane Tribe, Coeur d'Alene, the Kalispell Tribe, and the DAHP will have the opportunity to review and comment upon the survey report.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <p><b>TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p>A contingency plan addressing closures to the main access road to the ski area due to weather and/or fallen trees will be developed in coordination with WSDOT, State Parks, and MS 2000.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p>Mount Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park will improve Average Vehicle Occupancy (AVO) through the use of incentives for carpooling and more efficient use of the regular and scheduled busing programs from Spokane to the ski area on weekends and holidays.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

## **7. Plan Changes and Updates**

The Commission acknowledges that changed or unforeseen circumstances may require changes to this Plan of Development or subordinate plans (e.g., Landscape Management Plan) and has therefor delegated authority to the Director to make needed modifications to these plans. The Director will respond promptly to requests from MS 2000 to modify specific plan provisions and approve or deny these requests in a timely manner, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. Disputes regarding such decisions shall be submitted to the dispute resolution process contained in the concession agreement. The Assistant Director – Parks Development will serve as the contact for MS 2000 regarding interpretation of plan elements and advancing proposed plan changes to the Director for consideration and action as necessary.

The Assistant Director – Parks Development will consult with appropriate Operations Division staff at the headquarters, region, and park level, as well as appropriate Parks Development Division program staff as part of any interpretation of plan elements or advancing proposed plan changes to the Director. Actions by the Director to change plan elements may require environmental review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).