

Deschutes & Ochoco National Forests

Crooked River National Grassland

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Notice of Decision and Finding of No Significant Impact Wanoga Snowplay Environmental Assessment

Deschutes National Forest
Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District
Deschutes County, Oregon

On August 8, 2003, District Ranger Walter C. Schloer, Jr. made a decision to authorize implementation of Alternative C, with mitigations, of the Wanoga Snowplay Environmental Assessment. This decision allows for the following actions:

1. Change the road access to the snow play area from the highway by utilizing the existing Wanoga Snopark ingress/egress rather than creating a new one. A new access road (Approximately ¼ mile) from the proposed snow play area would tie into the existing ingress/egress road to Wanoga Snopark. This road would require fill material for the first 300 feet from the junction with the existing road into Wanoga Snopark and then use existing road to access the new parking lot. Fill material would be required to meet existing gradient as the existing entrance road is built on a fill. The road would be two lane and paved.

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SCHEDULE OF PROJECTS

PROJECT INFORMATION

✦ By Administrative Unit

- Deschutes SO
- Bend/Fort Rock
- Crescent
- Sisters
- Ochoco SO
- Lookout Mtn.
- Paulina
- Crooked River NG

✦ Forest Health, Fire, Fuels, Vegetation Management

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✦ Miscellaneous

PLANS, ANALYSES, ASSESSMENTS

► **Links**

► **Evaluate Our Service**

We welcome your comments on our service and your suggestions for improvement.

Forest

Deschutes National Forest

1001 SW Emkay Drive
Bend, OR 97702

(541) 383-5300

Ochoco National Forest

3160 N.E. 3rd Street
Prineville, OR 97754

(541) 416-6500

**Crooked River National
Grassland**

813 S.W. Hwy. 97
Madras, OR 97741

(541) 475-9272



2. Bury a power line from the existing Midstate line to the proposed snow play area and Wanoga Snopark, totalling approximately 1.4 miles. The power line would be buried in an existing road (200 rd) for all but 200 feet on the south end near where the existing powerline is. This powerline would be buried 4 feet deep in conduit and would require a special use permit and authorization from Midstate and Mt. Bachelor. The trenching would include removing approximately 1650 cubic yards of material and then fill it back in. Power to each site would be paid for by special use permittees, and/or groups(s) in partnership with the Forest Service, not by the US Forest Service. Power could be used for utilities for both shelters, Wanoga Snow play area and Wanoga Snopark.
3. Construct a new log shelter at Wanoga Snopark, approximately 1500 square feet in size. This would replace the existing shelter and would include an attached woodshed of approximately 300 square feet. The existing shelter would be removed and possibly utilized in another location if it or parts of it would meet current standards and codes. It would be located near/in the same location as the existing shelter in an area free of vegetation. If the existing shelter isn't reuseable, it would be parted out, hauled off and disposed of. The unuseable wood may be burned on site.
4. Construct a snow play area, which would be managed by the US Forest Service and would be little or no cost to use. Any fees would be set to cover the costs of plowing snow, maintaining improvements and/or other operational activities (not to include capital investment costs).
5. Close Skyliner trailhead area to snow play through subpart B closure order.

Alternative C provides the best combination of resource benefits and safety. This alternative increases

recreation opportunities for visitors to the Cascade Lakes Highway. It will provide a safe snow play area and restrict access to the existing unsafe area at Skyliner. Closing the area will encourage the use of the new snow play area, ultimately decreasing the probability for injuries at Skyliner. It also will replace the existing shelter at Wanoga Snomobile Snow Park with a larger one, more suitable for the current and anticipated type and amount of use. In addition it will provide power to the sites and limit the ingress/egress access points on the highway to the existing one.

The Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment are available for review upon request from the Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District.

This decision is not subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215.9, in accordance with CFR 215.10 (c), because there was no interest expressed during the 30 day review process and the proposed action was not modified from the original.

For further information, contact Marv Lang at the Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District, 1230 NE 3rd St, Suite A-262, Bend, OR 97701, or telephone 541 383-4793, FAX 541 383-4700.

Posted to web on 8/11/03

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