



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200 • (360) 902-2200 • TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS) AND ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT (CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION)

Name of Proposal: DNS/Adoption 20-018: MISSION RIDGE CHAIR 2 REPLACEMENT

Description of Current Proposal:

The Mission Ridge Ski Area is located in the southeast quarter of the Wenatchee River Ranger District on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest within the Squilchuck Basin, approximately 12 miles south of the city of Wenatchee. The ski area has been in operation for over 50 years under a special use permit from the US Forest Service. Mission Ridge operates on 2,080 acres of public land, of which 960 acres are administered by the US Forest Service, 1040 acres owned by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and 80 acres by Washington Department of Natural Resources (WADNR). All lands are administered by the USFS in accordance with a cooperative agreement between agencies. The project area is located within the northeast corner of the existing special use permit area.

Chair 2 (also known as the Liberator Quad) is the signature lift for Mission Ridge Ski and Board Resort. The Chair 2 lift provides the greatest variety of terrain, spectacular views, and access to the longest runs at Mission Ridge. Replacing and maintaining Chair 2 for safe and reliable daily operation is vital to the success of Mission Ridge. The current Chair 2 at Mission Ridge is a 1985 Poma high speed detachable lift. Because of the model, brand, and age of the lift, mechanical issues are occurring too often. Sourcing replacement parts is often a challenge and it is time to replace the lift.

Mission Ridge has proposed to replace Chair 2 with a 1988 Doppelmayr, 4CLD. This 1988 Doppelmayr is a high speed detachable lift that comes with bubble covers over the seats for passenger comfort. This lift design is known for being a very robust and well-built machine. Although the structural portion of the lift was built in 1988, the lift electronics and drive systems would all be new upon installation, a key point for reliable daily operation. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve the quality of the skiing recreation experience by providing high quality, reliable and safe facilities and skiing areas.

Mission Ridge is proposing to replace the existing Chair 2 in the same alignment and footprint as the existing chairlift. Chair 2 replacement lift would begin in the same location as existing Chair 2, on USFS land on Section 26, and end at the same location (or slightly downhill) of the existing Chair 2 on WDFW land in Section 35. The replacement lift design would have fewer towers. The replacement lift would include building specifically engineered 1) towers, 2) motor room, 3) carrier storage shed, 4) terminals, and 5) new electrical service. Mission Ridge has also proposed to hardscape the area between the lower terminal and the existing Midway Lodge to create a patio that would allow for additional outdoor seating at midway.

Proponent/Applicant: New Mission LLC, dba Mission Ridge Ski & Board Resort
Contact: Josh Jorgensen
7500 Mission Ridge
PO Box 1668
Wenatchee, WA 98807
(509) 679-1100 or (509) 663-6543
JJorgensen@missionridge.com

Location of Proposal: Mission Ridge Ski Area, in the southeast quarter of the Wenatchee River Ranger District on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest within the Squilchuck Basin, approximately 12 miles south of the city of Wenatchee, Chelan County, Washington: Township 21N, Range 19E, Sections 26 and 35.

Title of Document being Adopted: “Decision Memo Chair 2 Replacement Mission Ridge Ski and Board Resort” and “Small Project Internal Scoping Request and CE Tracking Form”.

Agency that Prepared Document Being Adopted: U.S. Forest Service

Date Adopted Document was Prepared: April 15, 2020

Description of Document (or Portion) Being Adopted: The entire contents of the “Decision Memo Chair 2 Replacement Mission Ridge Ski and Board Resort” and “Small Project Internal Scoping Request and CE Tracking Form”, which together make up the Categorical Exclusion.

If the Document Being Adopted has been Challenged, Please Describe: N/A

Name of Agency Adopting the Document: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

The Document is Available to be Read at:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife - Natural Resources Building,
1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA, Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. (Note: the office is temporarily closed)

This document is also available for review online at:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/open-comments>

Adoption of Existing Environmental Document: After independent review, we have identified and adopted the referenced document as being appropriate for this proposal. The document meets our environmental review needs for the current proposal and will accompany the proposal to the decision maker.

We issued this Determination of Nonsignificance/Adoption Notice under WAC 197-11-340(2), WAC 197-11-610, and WAC 197-11-630. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on May 4, 2020**.

Method of Comment: The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at:
<https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/open-comments>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

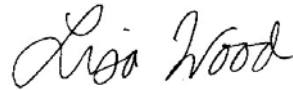
Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Habitat Program, Protection Division

Address: P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/closed-final>. Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.¹

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2260.

DATE OF ISSUE: April 20, 2020 **SIGNATURE:**



SEPA Log Number: 20-018.dns/adpt