

Project Proposals on Mt. Bachelor

Deschutes National Forest, Bend - Fort Rock Ranger District

September 3, 2019

The **Bend - Fort Rock Ranger District** of the **Deschutes National Forest** in **Deschutes County, Oregon** invites you to review and comment on several project proposals from Mt. Bachelor. The proposals are described on the following pages.



Mt. Bachelor is located entirely within the Deschutes National Forest and operates under a Special Use Permit issued by the United States Forest Service (USFS). Projects on Mt. Bachelor are subject to the NEPA process, which includes environmental and cultural resource reviews as well as providing an opportunity for public engagement.

Some improvements and projects on Mt. Bachelor have already been approved through their Master Development Plan. The projects included in their plan were analyzed in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision that was signed in 2013.

Projects in this letter fall in categories of action that may be excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS.

It would be most helpful to receive comments by October 1, 2019. Submit comments by email to: comments-pacificnorthwest-deschutes-bend-ftrock@usda.gov. Please put the name of the project in the subject line. Comments must be submitted as part of an actual email message, or as an attachment in Microsoft Word, rich text format (rtf), or portable document format (pdf) only. Comments submitted to other email address, in any other format, or that contain viruses will be rejected.

Comments may be submitted by post mail to: Kevin Larkin, District Ranger, Bend - Fort Rock Ranger District, 63095 Deschutes Market Road, Bend OR 97701. Comments may be hand delivered to the same address from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

This document and any related comments are part of the public scoping process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 40 CFR parts 1500-1508 and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 USC 552.

For more information about any of these projects please contact Cristina Peterson, NEPA Planner, by email at cristina.peterson@usda.gov or by phone at 541-383-4028.

Sincerely,

KEVIN W. LARKIN
District Ranger



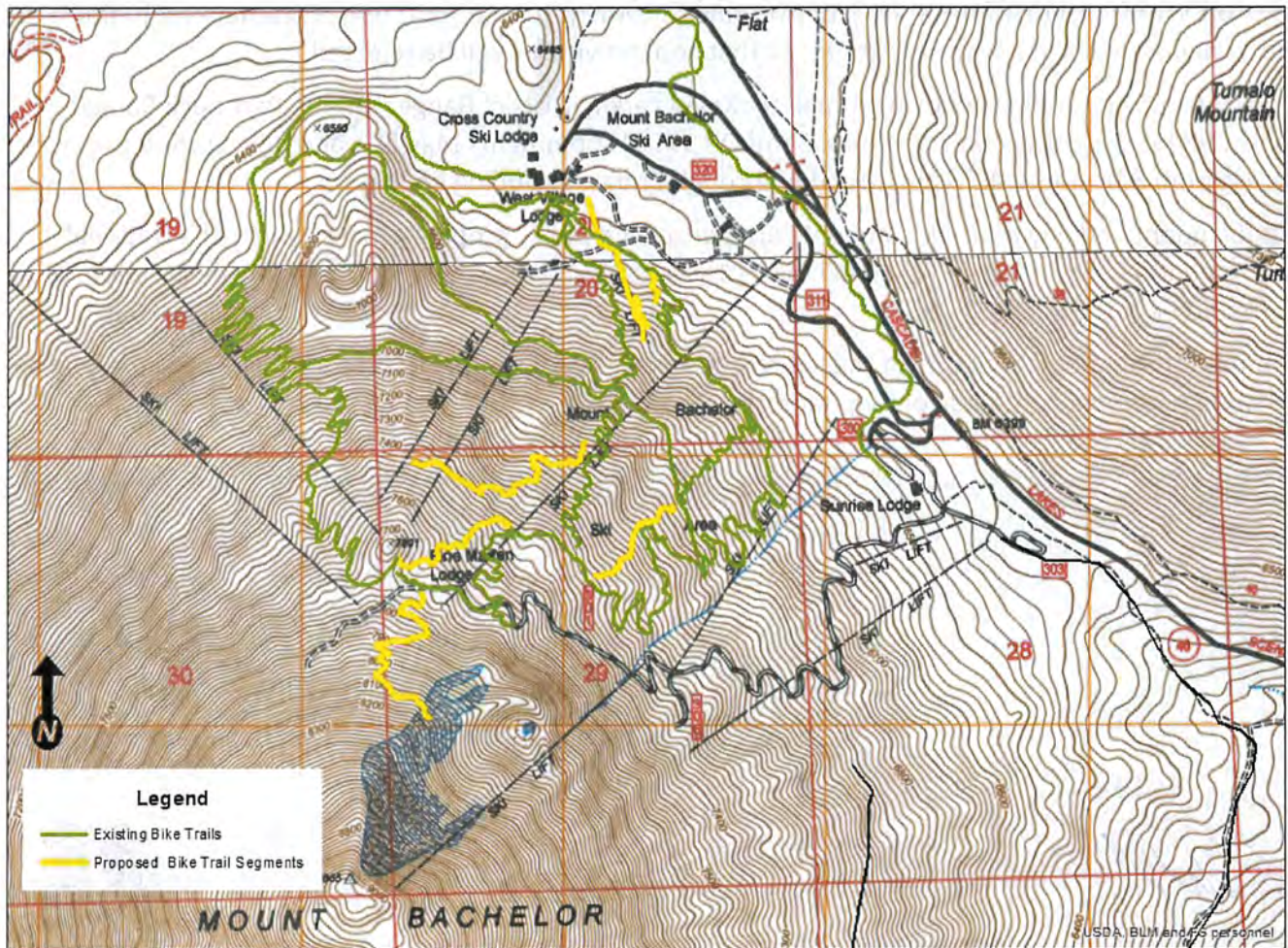
for the greatest good

Bike Trail Segment Additions

Deschutes National Forest, Bend - Fort Rock Ranger District

Mt. Bachelor submitted a proposal to convert a section of existing service road into a hiking trail and add several segments of new trail to their current bike park network (see map below). These segments would improve connections between existing bike trails and provide options for varying skills levels. They are within the area currently used for winter and summer trails on Mt. Bachelor. Construction is proposed to begin in spring 2020. The segments are listed below with the length of new trail construction.

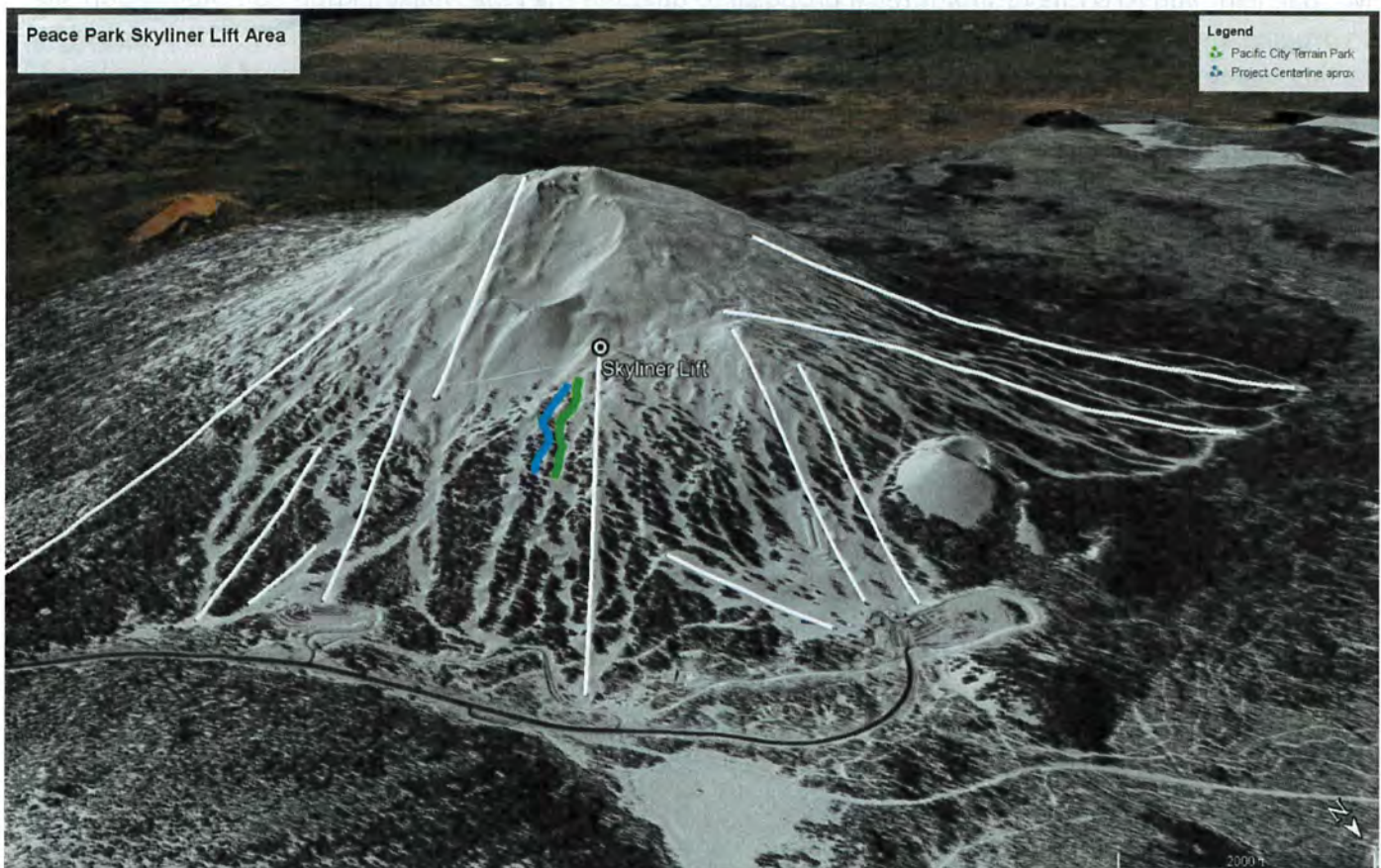
- Pine Marten to West Ridge Tow Rope Road – 0.6 miles hand built, conversion of existing road to trail
- Sunshine Segment 1 – 500 ft. hand built, single track adjacent to existing ski run
- Sunshine Segment 2 – 500 ft. hand built, single track adjacent to existing ski run
- Sunshine Segment 3 – 1,250 ft. machine built within existing ski run
- Sunshine Segment 4 – 650 ft. machine built within existing ski run
- Upper Lava Flow Segment B 1 – 1,575 ft. machine or hand built with small tree removal
- Upper Lava Flow Segment B 2 – 2,000 ft. machine or hand built with small tree removal
- Red Road to Rattlesnake – 2,000 ft. machine built, conversion of existing service road to trail



Peace Park Terrain Park

Deschutes National Forest, Bend - Fort Rock Ranger District

Mt. Bachelor submitted a proposal to develop a new terrain park located to the east of and parallel to the existing Pacific City Terrain Park (shown in green, see map below). The proposed location of the new park is shown in blue. The Peace Park would have a more natural flow than the Pacific Terrain Park and is part of Mt. Bachelor's incorporation of Woodward Mountain Park features. Once developed the new park would be machine groomed. Developing the new terrain park would require falling and leaving in place, selected large hemlock trees (maximum of 15 trees total) to allow enough space between trees for sno-cat access to groom the terrain. Several small diameter hemlock trees (2" – 8" dbh) would also be thinned and left in place. Construction of the proposed park is anticipated to begin in spring or summer of 2020.



Pine Marten Knob Communication Facility Upgrade

Deschutes National Forest, Bend - Fort Rock Ranger District

Mt. Bachelor operates the Pine Marten Knob Communication Site through a special use authorization from the Deschutes National Forest and in accordance with their Communication Site Plan signed on November 21, 2014. The site currently has 3 cellular antennas that provide service for Verizon, US Cellular, T-Mobile, and Sprint (See Photo 1 below). AT&T currently has a special use authorization from the Deschutes National Forest to operate a temporary cell tower near West Village Lodge. This existing antenna provides limited coverage and in order to improve their coverage AT&T is proposing to install an antenna on top of Pine Marten Knob. The location on Pine Marten Knob would improve their coverage by 36%, reaching an additional 17 square miles of the surrounding area. The current configuration on the knob does not have space for any additional cellular antennas. The Communication Site Plan specifies that any expansion of the facility must include space to accommodate all known cellular carriers and anticipated new carriers.

Mt. Bachelor and AT&T have submitted a proposal to upgrade the Pine Marten Knob Communication Site to provide a space for their cell tower and future carriers that may request to rent space. The proposed facility has been designed to meet the criteria in the Communication Site Plan and would be an enclosed structure that will limit the potential for people to be exposed to electromagnetic frequencies (EMFs). All cellular antennas would be inside the constructed facility (see Photo 2 below).

Construction of the new facility is proposed to begin in Spring of 2020 and continue through the summer. Equipment would be staged in the disturbed area at the top of the Pine Marten chairlift.



Photo 1. Current Antennas on Pine Marten Knob

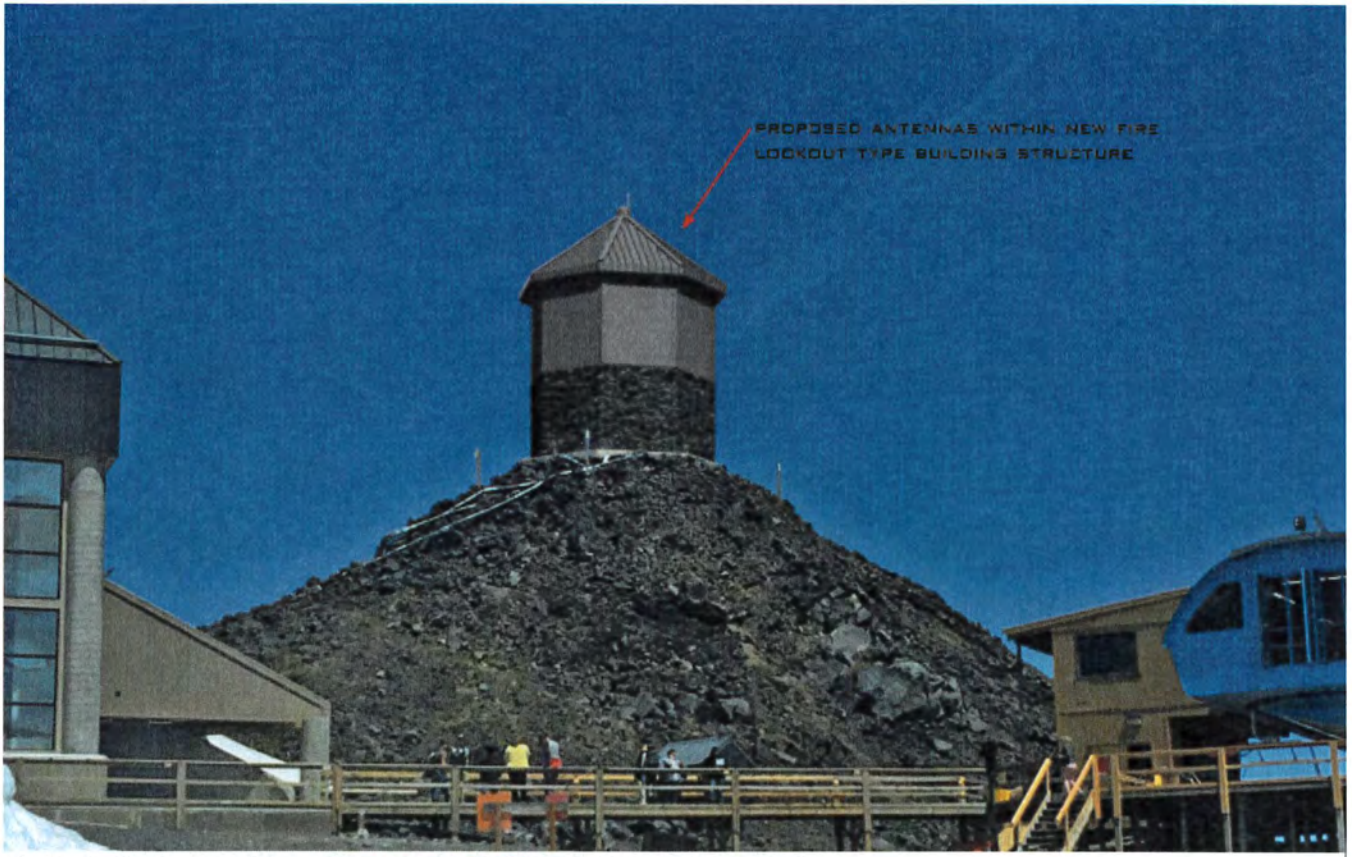


Photo 2. Photo Rendition of Proposed Facility on Pine Marten Knob