

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton
Presidential Library Staff.**

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records
Subgroup/Office of Origin: Council on Environmental Quality
Series/Staff Member: Kathleen (Katie) McGinty
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 4302
FolderID:

Folder Title:
Forest Conference-Ski Areas

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	61	7	2	3

JUL -25' 94 (MON) 11:09

P. 001

THOMAS S. FOLEY
5TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

THE SPEAKER

PLEASE REPLY TO
CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE
☐ 1201 LONGWORTH MOB
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4708
AREA CODE (202) 225-2006

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

PLEASE REPLY TO
DISTRICT OFFICES
☐ WEST 801 FIRST AVENUE
SECOND FLOOR WEST
SPOKANE, WA 99208
AREA CODE (808) 362-2155
☐ E. 12928 SPRAGUE
SPOKANE, WA 99216-0736
AREA CODE (509) 928-4434
☐ 28 W MAIN
WALLA WALLA, WA 99362-2816
AREA CODE (509) 522-5372

DATE:

7/25/94

TIME:

11:10 Am

TO:

Don Knowles

*Forster/4
OK AL2/24*

FAX NUMBER: _____

OFFICE NUMBER: _____

FROM: (CHECK ONE)

- ☒ JAMES ASHMORE
- ☐ MICHELLE DENTON
- ☐ DANA GJELDE
- ☐ SANDY MATHIESEN
- ☐ SUSAN MOOS
- ☐ DEBBIE O'BRIEN

- ☐ PATRICK ORMSBY
- ☐ BRYCE QUICK
- ☐ CAROLYN SCOTT
- ☐ ANDY VALUCHEK
- ☐ NANCY VAN DEEST
- ☐ MATTHEW VEAZEY
- ☐ TODD WOODARD

COMMENTS: _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): 6

(If this transmission is not complete, please call (202) 225-2006.)

JUL 22 '94 14:03 PETTIT-MORRY 4475897

Mt. Hood Meadows
Sales & Marketing

6420 SW Macadam Ave.
Portland, OR 97201

MEMORANDUM

To: Tom Leonard

From: Sam Anderson

Date: July 13, 1994

Re: Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association (PNAAA) Option 9 Problem

This memo will outline the present situation and past history of Option 9 with respect to effects upon Pacific Northwest ski areas. The Option 9 management strategy for protecting spotted owls and other species within the habitat range of the owl encompassed more than 24 million acres of federal land. Permitted ski areas are approximately 1% of the total land managed under the owl plan.

In reality, only about 30% of the 35,000 ski area permit acres are actually impacted by ground disturbing activities such as lifts, parking lots, roads, ski runs and buildings. The rest is left in a natural state. It is fair to say that the ski areas have an actual impact on only .04% of all the federal lands managed pursuant to Option 9 standards and guidelines.

Option 9 created the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) to manage impacts of ground disturbing activities around riparian areas. It designated key watersheds and interim buffer zones around creeks and streams, and prohibited development activities in those areas without a watershed analysis and adherence to 9 goals and objectives of the ACS. Ski areas cannot effectively operate or expand their resorts and comply with the 9 goals and objectives.

During the Option 9 process, no analysis was done of the existing permitted ski areas or the impacts adopting of the ACS management strategy would have on ski area operations. The only discussion of ski area concerns occurred as part of the answer to public comments wherein the FSEIS stated that ski area operations that conflicted with the ACS would be mitigated to comply with the goals and objectives or be eliminated.

690-2780
2084684
Don Knowler

PNSAA Option 9**July 13, 1994****Page 2**

After voicing concern about the impact of the ACS on ski areas, the PNSAA was told that the problem would be resolved in the Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD was issued and 1 sentence addressed consequences of the Option 9 ACS to ski resorts. That sentence is on p. 15 and says, "We presume that currently existing and permitted ski areas will be allowed to continue under current permit terms."

This sentence is ambiguous and has been interpreted by the USFS Region 6 to require complete compliance by all Northwest ski areas with the ACS management direction. As the ROD is an interagency document issued by both Department of Agriculture (DOA) and Department of Interior (DOI), it cannot be unilaterally interpreted by the USFS even though DOI has no ski areas under its management.

According to an assistant for Jim Lyons, Assistant Secretary of DOA, the ski area problem was raised at an Executive Interagency Committee meeting (Asst. Secretary and White House level). It was agreed among the participants which included DOA, DOI, Department of Justice, White House and the USFS Chief, that ski areas would be excluded from the ACS management direction. Mark Gaede (DOA), Don Knowles (DOI) and Will Stelle (Office of Environmental Policy, White House) worked on the language to exempt the ski areas.

Jim Lyons was quoted in a Seattle paper (see attached) the day before release of the ROD to the effect that the ski areas were "grandfathered" in and the ACS would not apply to activities within existing permit areas. The USFS personnel charged with implementing Option 9 do not read the ROD sentence that way.

PNSAA is seeking clarification of the language along the lines quoted by Lyons in the paper. We want some type of directive from the interagency group (DOA & DOI), through the USFS Chief telling Region 6 the ROD language was meant to exempt the ski areas from the ACS.

The problems facing the ski areas under the ACS include:

- Current facilities and areas of impact violate the Goals and Objectives and Standards and Guidelines of the ACS;
- approved, but unimplemented projects in riparian areas or key watersheds will not pass ACS scrutiny;
- permit renewal for new 40 year permits cannot comply with ACS requirements;
- proposed new projects and facilities within current boundaries that impact riparian areas or are in key watershed will not meet ACS criteria.

PNSAA Option 9**July 13, 1994****Page 3**

PNSAA proposed a letter to be sent to the Chief (see attached).

If the language is not clarified three options exist:

- 1. Legislative language in some bill which exempts the ski areas;**
- 2. Legislative language which classifies ski areas as Congressionally Withdrawn as a land classification (this may not be possible);**
- 3. The ski areas initiate or join the lawsuit challenging the legal sufficiency of the FSEIS/ROD.**

We need Congressional help to contact the DOI and White House and discuss exempting the ski areas, as Lyons thought had been done, to avoid what could become a larger problem. It was already agreed among all the relevant parties at the Executive Interagency Committee meeting that this solution would be accomplished. Now we need to clarify the language to reflect that decision.

A meeting is scheduled for July 26, 1994 at 4:30 in Jim Lyons office with USPS Chief J.W. Thomas. Hopefully, Don Knowles and someone from the OEP (White House) will also attend. This issue needs to be resolved at that meeting.



Deug Campbell
President

July 22, 1994

MEMBER AREAS:

IDAHO ZONE

Schweitzer Mtn. Resort
The Little Ski Hill

OREGON ZONE

Kelih Pabie
Executive Director
(503) 622-5845

Anthony Lakes
Hoodoo Ski Bowl
Mt. Bachelor
Mt. Bailey Snow Cat
Mt. Hood Meadows
Mt. Hood Ski Bowl
Ski Ashland
Spout Springs
Timberline
Willows Lake Tramway
Warner Canyon
Willamette Pass

WASHINGTON ZONE

Alpentel
Crystal Mtn. Resort
49° North
Hurricane Ridge
Hyak
Loup Loup
Mission Ridge
Mt. Baker
Mt. Spokane
Sitzmark
Ski Acres
Ski Bluewood
Snoqualmie Summit
Stevens Pass
White Pass

ASSOCIATES:

Mt. Seymour, BC
The Big Mountain, MT
Whistler Mountain, BC

Mr. Nick Ashmore
Special Assistant
Congressman Thomas Foley
1201 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Washington Ski Areas Visit

VIA FAX - 5 Pages (202) 226-3942

Dear Nick:

Per Stan Goodell's conversation with you yesterday, this will serve to confirm your meeting on Wednesday, July 27, at 11:00 a.m., with Tom Leonard, President and General Manager, Crystal Mt., WA and David Moffett, President, Ski Lifts, Inc., operators of Alpentel, Ski Acres, Snoqualmie Summit and Hyak ski areas.

In our effort to resolve the problem that Option 9 imposes upon ski areas on federal land we have developed the attached briefing document, which summarizes our current status. The ski industry has complied with the full NEPA process and has an excellent track record of environmentally responsible use of the forest.

Option 9 started out as a prescription for timber issues but in its final form is untenable when applied to ski area use of forest lands. Jim Lyons, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture has been of great help and recognizes the importance of this issue to the viability of skiing as a developed recreational activity to the American public. His efforts to resolve this have been either resisted or misunderstood by the Interagency Team and the problem persists.

A meeting is scheduled for July 26, in Jim Lyons office, at 4:30 p.m., with Chief J. W. Thomas, the Attorney General Staff and hopefully Don Knowles from the Department of Interior to hammer out a solution.

We are looking forward to being heard again on this issue and ask that you and Congressman Foley be aware of the importance of a positive resolution. Your encouragement of full, open minded attendance by each agency at this meeting would be of great assistance.

JUL -25' 94 (MON) 11:11

P.006

JUL 22 '94 14:03 PETTIT-MORRY 4475897

P.2/5

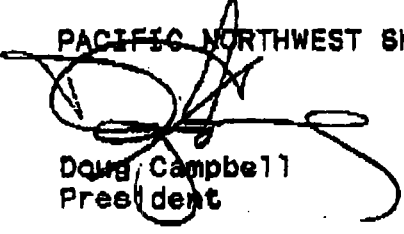
Mr. Nick Ashmore
Congressman Thomas Foley
Page -2-

I appreciate your taking time from a busy schedule to meet with Tom and Dave for a briefing on the results of their meeting.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Cordially,

PACIFIC NORTHWEST SKI AREAS ASSOCIATION



Doug Campbell
President

DAG/dm

ATTACHMENTS - 3 pages