United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

Shasta-Trinity National Forest
Headquarters

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www.fs.fed.us/r5/shastatrinity

File Code: 1950 **Date:** March 23, 2022

Subject: Mt. Shasta Nordic Center New Development

Dear Interested Party:

The Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Shasta McCloud Management Unit, is preparing to conduct the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis for the proposed Mt. Shasta Nordic Center New Development. Preliminary analysis indicates it would qualify under the "*Approval, modification, or continuation of special uses that require less than 20 acres of NFS lands*" Categorical Exclusion at 36 CFR 220.6(e)(3). The project is located near the Mount Shasta Ski Park within all or portions of Township 40 N, Range 3, Section 17 (Mt. Diablo Meridian).

As the Responsible Official, I am seeking your comments on this proposal. This letter includes a description of the purpose and need for action, the proposed action, as well as public participation in this process.

The proposed project will amend the Siskiyou Outdoor Recreation Alliance (SORA) Ski Area Permit to include new improvements to the Nordic Center base area. These improvements are discussed in more detail in the Proposed Action section below.

- A 10 ft. x 60 ft. portable lodge comprised of two 10 ft. x 30 ft. portable trailers joined together and placed on top of a compacted road base.
- Six (6) solar panels affixed to a portable trailer or placed on the ground near the lodge.
- One new portable facilities trailer.
- One double vault toilet.
- A concrete walking path to connect the lodge, vault toilets and the parking lot.
- One 200-gallon propane tank that will be delivered and removed every season.
- Two interpretive panels to be located near the current kiosk.

Your Involvement

You are invited to participate in the NEPA analysis for Mt. Shasta Nordic Center New Development by providing specific written comments to us during this public scoping period. We would like to know your concerns for the proposed action in this area. For our environmental analysis, we are seeking information on extraordinary circumstances.[1] For the National Historical Preservation Act, we are seeking information on historic or cultural values.

[1] Resource conditions considered in determining extraordinary circumstances are: (i) Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species; (ii) Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds; (iii) Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas; (iv) Inventoried roadless area or potential wilderness area; (v) Research natural areas; (vi) American Indians and Alaska Native religious or

If you have information you feel that we may not be aware of, or feel there are extraordinary circumstances regarding the proposed action, please send that information in writing via email to: STNF-comments-SMMU@usda.gov (subject line: Mt. Shasta Nordic Center New Development). You may also submit comments via U.S. Mail to:

Forest Supervisor Rachel Birkey, Attn: Myrnie Mayville
USDA-Forest Service
204 West Alma Street
Mount Shasta, CA 96067

Providing your comments within 21 days of the date of this letter will be most useful for us to consider your input during the analysis. Please be aware that the comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the Agency with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents.

Purpose and Need for Action

SORA intends to upgrade its current guest services facility and amenities with new and more permanent infrastructure. The current Mt. Shasta Nordic Center facilities are mobile to reduce risks and liabilities associated with leaving unattended facilities on site during the off-season. The current yurt, portable trailers and portable toilets have served the public well for the last 15 years, but a more permanent set of infrastructure will allow the Nordic Center to provide more comprehensive services for Nordic Center guests and improve/expand its services which will improve the visitor's experience.

Proposed Action

Siskiyou Outdoor Recreation Alliance (SORA) has requested that their Ski Area Permit be amended to include the following new improvements to the base area:

- **One (1) 10 ft. x 60 ft. portable lodge** comprised of two 10 ft. x 30 ft. portable trailers joined together and will be placed on top of a compacted road base.
    - The lodge will house rental gear, guest lounge, an entry station and small retail area, and a private office for the staff.
    - The staff will have access to a RV style water system designed for hand washing and light duty cleaning. Fresh water and effluent gray water will be stored within the trailer in built in tanks that are pumped and filled accordingly.
    - Since the Nordic Center is a seasonal operation, the trailers would be portable so they can be moved to a secure storage space in Mt. Shasta at the end of each ski season.
    - Construction will be both durable and architecturally significant with a modern

cultural sites; and (vii) Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas. The mere presence of one or more these resource conditions does not preclude use of a categorical exclusion. It is the existence of a cause-effect relationship between a proposed action and the potential effect on these resource conditions, and if such a relationship exists, the degree of the potential effect of a proposed action on these resource conditions that determines whether extraordinary circumstances exist (36 CFR 220.6b).

aesthetic. The lodge will be dry and warm for both employees and patrons, and will be built from weather resistant materials.

- **Six (6) solar panels** affixed to a portable trailer or placed on the ground near the lodge. The panels will be moved throughout the season to maximaze solar capture. The solar panels will be used to power the lights, outlets and circulators for the gas fired radiant heating system.
- **One (1) new portable facilities trailer** to house trail signs, equipment, a small workshop for onsite repairs.
- **One (1) double vault toilet** adjacent to the new lodge and parking lot.
    - The vault toilet will be a Forest Service facility maintained by the Mt. Shasta Nordic Center and part of the Nordic Center Trailhead which was approved under the Gateway Phase II NEPA (https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53089).
- A **concrete walking path** to connect the lodge, vault toilets and the parking lot to allow for better snow removal around the buildings to prevent slip and fall incidents.
- **One (1) 200 gallon propane tank** placed on concrete pavers or pier blocks over a compacted road base surface. The tank will be delivered and removed by the propane vendor every season.
- **Two (2) interpretive panels** to be located near the current kiosk.

Approximately 5 trees will need to be removed where the proposed lodge will be placed. Please see the map and figures at the end of this document for more information.

Decision to be Made

If there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action, then the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation. The Forest Supervisor will decide whether to implement the proposed action, implement an alternate action that meets the purpose and need, or take no action.

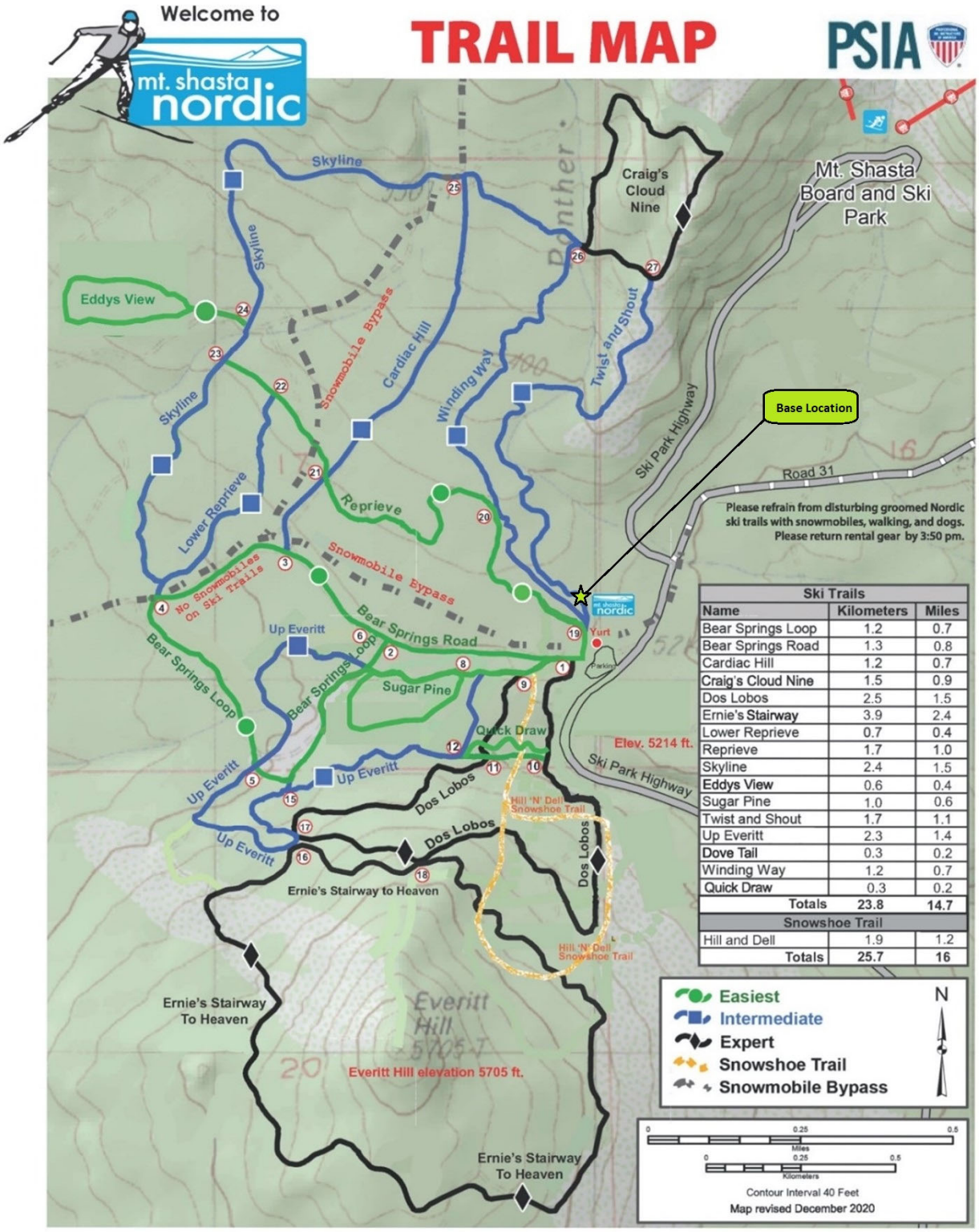
Information regarding this proposal may be found at the Forest website for the project: https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=61169. If you have any questions about this proposal or need additional information, please contact Myrnie Mayville at myrnie.mayville@usda.gov.

We appreciate your interest in the management of our public lands and look forward to hearing from you.

Digitally signed by RACHEL BIRKEY
Date: 2022.03.23 17:22:50 -07'00'

RACHEL BIRKEY
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures



Ski Trails		
Name	Kilometers	Miles
Bear Springs Loop	1.2	0.7
Bear Springs Road	1.3	0.8
Cardiac Hill	1.2	0.7
Craig's Cloud Nine	1.5	0.9
Dos Lobos	2.5	1.5
Ernie's Stairway	3.9	2.4
Lower Reprieve	0.7	0.4
Reprieve	1.7	1.0
Skyline	2.4	1.5
Eddys View	0.6	0.4
Sugar Pine	1.0	0.6
Twist and Shout	1.7	1.1
Up Everitt	2.3	1.4
Dove Tail	0.3	0.2
Winding Way	1.2	0.7
Quick Draw	0.3	0.2
Totals	23.8	14.7
Snowshoe Trail		
Hill and Dell	1.9	1.2
Totals	25.7	16

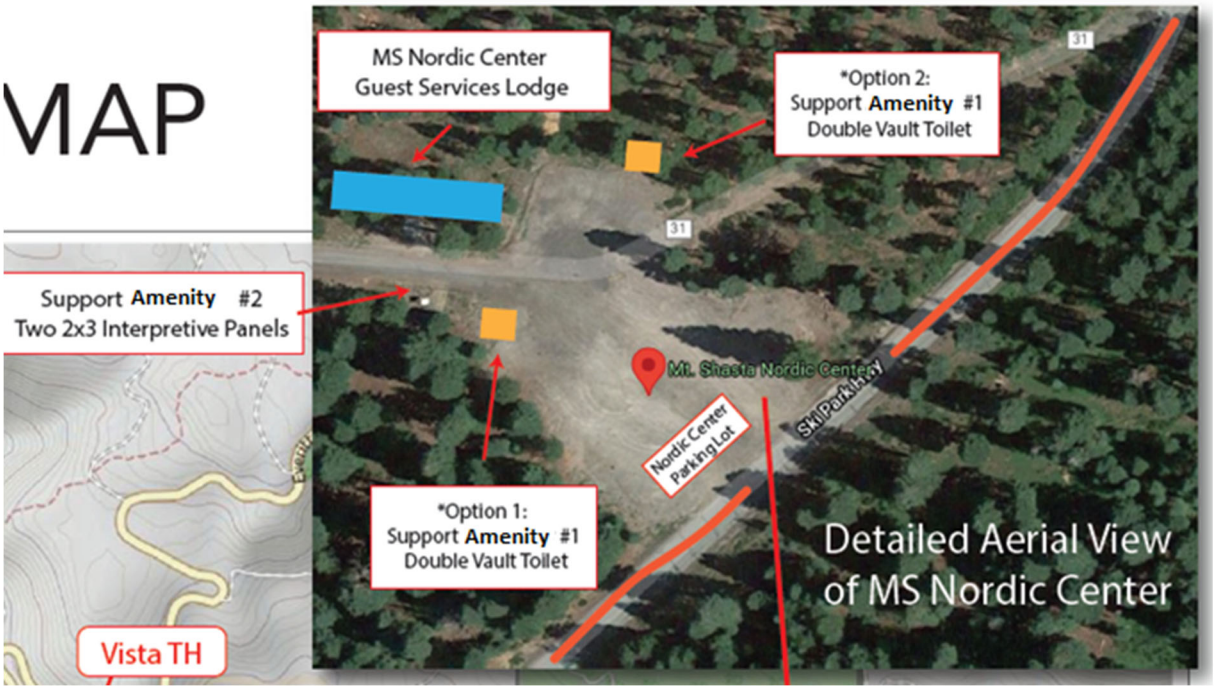


Figure 1: Detailed Aerial Overview of Nordic Center New Proposed Infrastructure



Figure 2: Location of Proposed Vault Toilet (preferred location)

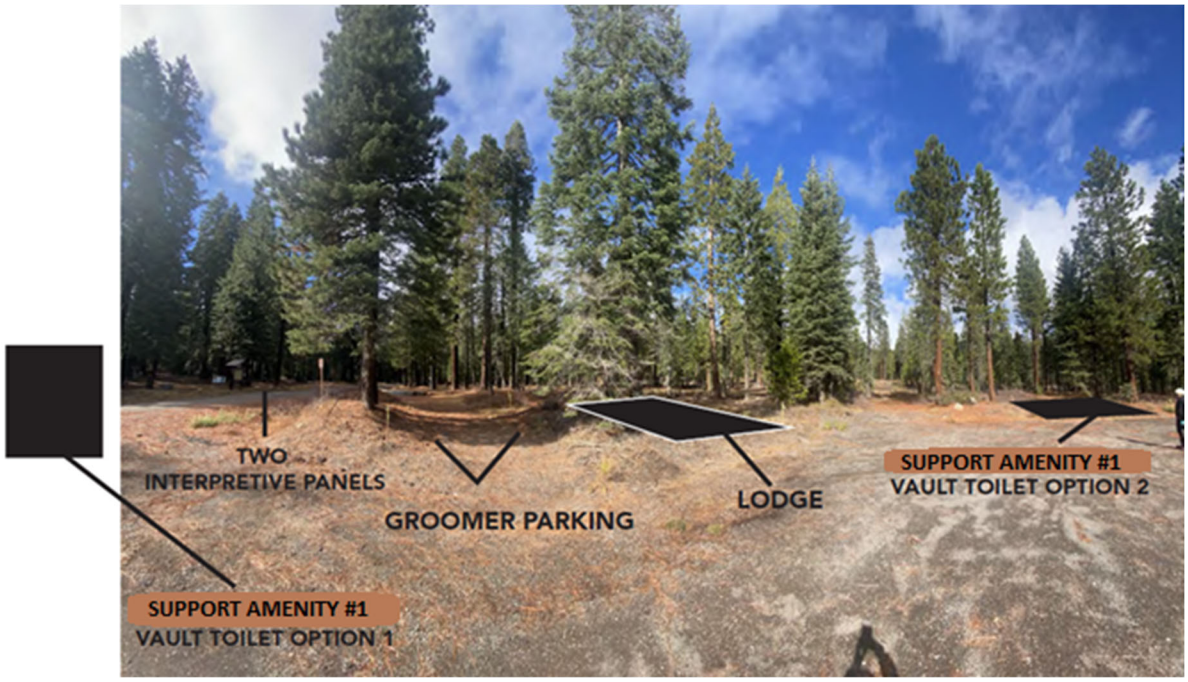
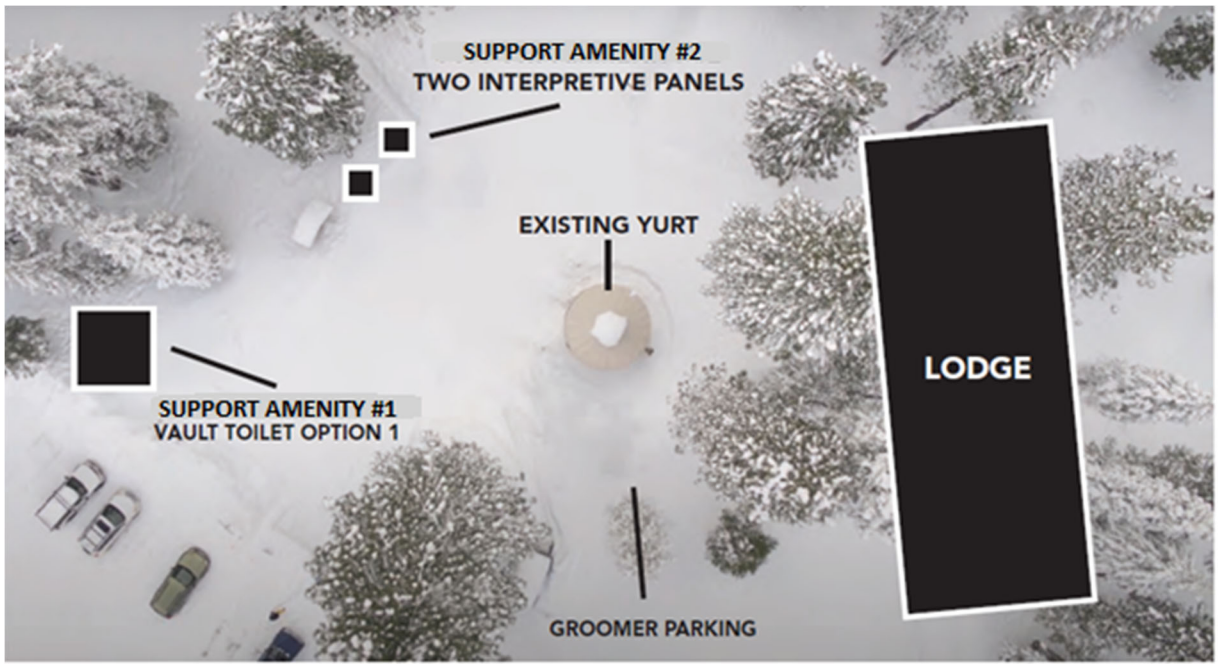


Figure 3: View of lodge location, vault toilet (both proposed locations), and interpretive panels



Figure 4: View of new interpretive panels and possible vault toilet (2nd option less preferred)


SUPPORT AMENITY #2
TWO INTERPRETIVE PANELS
EXISTING YURT
LODGE
SUPPORT AMENITY #1
VAULT TOILET OPTION 1
GROOMER PARKING