EPIC DISCOVERY- A First of Its Kind Summer Adventure Experience

BACKGROUND

Problem Statement:

How can ski areas operating on federal lands under Forest Service Special Use Permits propose additional year-round recreation activities other than skiing or snowboarding? WHY IS THIS A PROBLEM? Economic - Work Force - Access to Public Recreation Opportunities

- Ski areas are areas previously designated for developed recreation.
- Ski areas typically do not earn money for nearly half of the year.
- Ski areas lay off most of the seasonal winter work force.
- Ski areas have extensive infrastructure that sits idle for several months each year.
- Not a predictable outcome among Forests.

SO WHAT DID IT TAKE





125 STAT. 538 PUBLIC LAW 112–46—NOV. 7, 2011 Public Law 112–46 112th Congress An Act

To amend the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 to clarify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture regarding additional recreational uses of National Forest System land that is subject to ski area permits, and for other purposes. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to amend the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 497b)—

(1) to enable snow-sports (other than nordic and alpine skiing) to be permitted on National Forest System land subject to ski area permits issued by the Secretary of Agriculture under section 3 of the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 497b); and

(2) to clarify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture
 to permit appropriate additional seasonal or year-round recreational activities and facilities on National Forest System
 land subject to ski area permits issued by the Secretary of
 Agriculture under section 3 of the National Forest Ski Area
 Permit Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 497b).



THEN WHAT HAPPENED?

- The initial list of appropriate activities was floored into the Bill.
- The overall concept of fit within the Forest & within the ski area (i.e., it is still a winter sports area).
- Developing the FSM Guidelines.
- Heavenly was one of the first ones to implement new summer activities along with Vail.
- Setting a high bar for others to follow.













THE SITE DESIGN & PLANNING PROCESS (The What)

- Site Analysis
- Conceptual Plan
- Refined Plan
- Submitting the Project Proposal
- Understanding the Proposal

THE REVIEW PROCCESS (The How)

- Land Use, Master Development
 Plan & Forest Plan Consistency
- NEPA effects analysis and laws of other jurisdictions: parallel review
- Engineering Plans/ Specs/ Calcs
- Owner's 3rd party engineering review
- Public NEPA Process
- Regional Office Policy Review

DECISION PROCESS & IMPLEMENTATION (The When)

- Pre-Decisional Objection Process
- Decision Document
- Conditions of Approval
- Coordination with Other Agencies
- 45-Day Detailed Engineering Review
- Field Fitting Required

•What's it Going to Look Like on the Ground?























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A raindrop's journey

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Rain and snow in the mountains sustains life far beyond where they fall.

High above Tahoa water uppor condenses into raindrops and plunges to warth. The dogs hit the termost barrot of a galar tree and side down the needles to the equant. Their journey has just logue, Wares they rand galang west of the Baarlion. Wares they rand galang west of the Baarlion the through California to the Baarlion Courts. Nandrops failing inside or east of Tahoe Riow north. Their journeys will come to as end in the deserts of Newalls.





LESSONS LEARNED: HOW CAN WE IMPROVE GOING FORWARD?

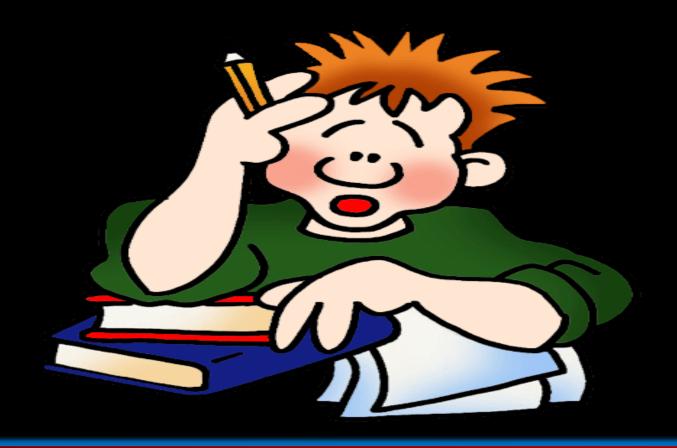
1. Approach as a Partnership



2. Engage the right vendors early, help them understand the process & requirements: manage expectations, speak the same language



3. Which Regs? Figure out all review standards and credentials: ASTM, ACCT, State of CA



4. Find ways to be efficient and thorough: short building & summer season; time is money; phase approvals & release in parts: don't wait to do it all at once







5. Develop Forest Service technical review bench strength



6. Conduct Group Post Construction Evaluations: what worked, didn't, what lessons can we share with ourselves and with others?

7. Create a complete experience, not just a series of individual activities; tell stories to connect people to the land and create a sense of place



8. It's about the staff & their ability to engage the guest



