

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**  
**49 Degrees North Mountain Resort Revised Master Development Plan**  
**COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST**

Stevens County, Washington

March 2004

<b>Lead Agency:</b>	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service
<b>Responsible Official:</b>	Rick Brazell, Forest Supervisor Colville National Forest, 765 South Main Street Colville, Washington 99114
<b>For Further Information Contact:</b>	District Ranger Newport Ranger District, 315 North Warren Street Newport, Washington 99156 Phone (509) 447-7300

**ABSTRACT**

Forty-nine Degrees North Mountain Resort is an existing ski area located on the Colville National Forest and operated under a Special Use Permit. The Resort operates on about 1,200 acres, 900 of which is National Forest System lands. Chewelah Basin Ski Corp. holds the Special Use Permit, owns the resort improvements located on National Forest System lands, and owns the associated private lands. Chewelah Basin Ski Corp. submitted a revised Master Development Plan for several improvements at the resort. A DEIS was prepared which analyzed three alternatives – no action, the revised master development plan as submitted by Chewelah Basin Ski Corp., and a modified alternative developed by Chewelah Basin in conjunction with the Forest Service and Land & Water Consulting. The DEIS was distributed in April 2003 and comments received through June 2003. Three alternatives are displayed in the FEIS.

**Alternative A** is the no action alternative. No new developments would occur at the resort. Regular repairs and maintenance would continue.

**Alternatives B and C** are very similar. Both alternatives expand the permit area from about 900 acres to about 2,000 acres, consistent with the allocation in the 1988 Colville National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan. Both alternatives include the following improvements --

- Enlarged base lodge and construction of a mid-way lodge on private land,
- Additional parking,
- Associated expansion of the water system, waste-water treatment system, and electrical supply system,
- Construction of a Nordic ski lodge and Nordic trails,
- Construction of a skating rink,
- Construction of new ski terrain, and
- Construction of a new lift in the east basin area.

Alternatives B and C differ in the following ways –

- Alternative C includes more tree skiing while Alternative B includes more cleared ski runs. Alternative C was developed to reduce the number of larger trees removed.
- While the Nordic trails are located in the same general area, the precise location of the trails differs between the alternatives. Alternative C was developed to reduce impacts to water quality and fish habitats.
- Alternative C proposes to relocate several service buildings adjacent to Little Calispell Creek and restore riparian habitat in a portion of this area. Little Calispell Creek is a fish-bearing stream adjacent to the main lodge. Alternative C was developed to reduce impacts to water quality and fish habitats.

Alternative C was the preferred alternative in the DEIS.