

USFS approves draft for Heavenly to make upgrades

The U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit issued a draft decision for proposed improvements to existing skiing and snowboarding terrain at Heavenly Mountain Resort.

People have until March 21 to file objects with **the decision**.

Proposed improvements would include selective widening of ski trails, removing trail obstacles and relocation and/or realignment of some portions of existing snowmaking air and water pipelines to improve user experience, maintain user safety, increase energy and water efficiency, and maintain native species.

Ski trail widening to reduce bottlenecks and improve skier flow, would include tree removal and selective boulder relocation on approximately 12 trails, with grading required in two locations to match the widened area to the grade of the existing trail. Due to the widening, any existing snowmaking lines would be relocated to the new edge of the trail. Removal of obstacles, such as boulders, stumps and logs, would take place on 11 trails to improve natural snow surface coverage.

Project work is expected to begin this year.