

PROPOSED BIATHLON SITE TOUR

November 18, 2008

Note: barren ground, no snow, warm conditions.



Alignment of proposed access road from Highway 12 to proposed biathlon site.



Member of Helena Hunters and Anglers Association explains history of wildlife conservation in North America. Children seated above are near proposed spectator observation deck.



Looking south through the site of proposed fifty car parking lot in quaking aspen and Englemann spruce habitat.



Yellow flagging marks proposed routes of twenty-foot wide, groomed cross-country ski trails.



Concerned citizen and lease holder of nearby historic cabin on the National Historic Registry – Margaret Regan.



Hunter, historian, conservationist, and outdoor enthusiast – Jim Posewitz.



Snowshoe hare hiding under rocks that would be removed for proposed groomed ski trail entering shooting range site. Snowshoe hare are moderately abundant and primary food source for lynx. This one has no snow for camouflage.



Ground cover in forest of Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, quaking aspen and spruce. Down woody debris provides small mammal habitat and foraging sites for forest hawks, owls, marten, lynx and other species—all known occur in the vicinity.



Site of proposed shooting range in quaking aspen and Englemann spruce forest-exceptionally important wildlife habitat.



Site of proposed shooting range is heavily used by elk, moose and deer. American marten, a management indicator species of mature forests on the Helena National Forest are known to occur at this site. Wildlife biologist Gayle Joslin explains importance of this wildlife corridor.



Quaking aspen stand – site of proposed 50 car parking lot. Aspen regeneration is occurring throughout the site, indicating a very healthy stand of aspen. Dying lodgepole will encourage more aspen growth.



High water table at edge of wetland. Immediately adjacent to site of proposed warm-up building and penalty ski loop (in wetland).



Elk antler rub scrapes on lodgepole pine tree. Site of proposed maintenance building. Antler scrapes from both mule deer and elk are abundant throughout area.



Perennial stream to be crossed with proposed access road and crossed again by proposed groomed ski trails three more times above this site.



Hairy woodpecker – Helena National Forest management indicator species for snag dependent species. Observed at site of proposed shooting range and spectator observation deck.