Heavenly plans to tweak ski experience for ’16



Improvements are in the works to make it easier to get back to the Tamarack lift. Photo/LTN file

By Kathryn Reed

Changes to Heavenly Mountain Resort that are expected to be ready for the 2016-17 ski season are mostly based on what skiers have requested.

The resort wants to:

- Build a permanent 300-square-foot ticket sales kiosk adjacent to the Bear Cave Ski School near Tamarack Lodge;
- Relocate the Red Fir handle tow lift to the right side of the Easy Street Trail to reduce user conflicts;
- Install a nearly 300-foot magic carpet surface to primarily be used for ski school activities on the lower

Easy Street Trail near the relocated Red Fir lift;

· Widen Tamarack Return Trail by about 125 feet on 1.3 acres;

· Limb and remove trees under the Blue Streak Zipline to provide easier seasonal removal and installation of the lines.

“This is what guests have asked for,” Russ Pecoraro, spokesman for Heavenly, told *Lake Tahoe News*. “We are constantly looking for ways to improve the experience.”

The U.S. Forest Service, whose land the projects would be built on, is asking the public to weigh in on the proposals.

“This proposal does not amend the master plan. The project is consistent with the vision described in Heavenly’s Master Development Plan,” Lisa Herron with the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit told *Lake Tahoe News*.

It’s possible as many as 200 trees will be removed. Pecoraro said widening California Trail will make it easier for riders to get back to Tamarack Express.

“With some of the teaching terrain up there we don’t have the lifts in the ideal places to access the terrain for beginners,” Pecoraro said.

The kiosk being built next to the Bear Cave Ski School would also be open in the summer to sell tickets for the ropes courses and other amenities available when there isn’t snow on the ground. It would replace the temporary structures that exist today.

Pecoraro, per company policy, would not reveal what the price tag is for these improvements.

The goal is to secure necessary permits this winter and begin work in the spring after the resort closes for the winter

season. It is not anticipated that the construction will impact summer activities, Pecoraro said.

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Notes:

· The deadline to comment is Dec. 21.

· The proposal is available **online**.

· For more info, contact Matt Dickinson at the USFS at 530.543.2769.