



Badger Pass Ski Lodge Rehabilitation



Photo by Kenny Karst, DNC

Where is the project located?

The Badger Pass Ski Lodge Rehabilitation project area is located at an elevation of 7200 feet at the Badger Pass Ski Area, midway between Wawona and Yosemite Valley in Yosemite National Park. The lodge is situated in Monroe Meadow on the south side of Glacier Point Road, approximately 5.1 miles east of Chinquapin. The lodge is accessible year round via Glacier Point Road.

Why undertake this project?

Since its construction in 1935, Badger Pass Ski Lodge has supported winter recreation at the Badger Pass Ski Area, a site that is historically significant as one of California's earliest developed downhill ski areas. The original ski lodge building is characteristic of NPS Rustic architecture with Swiss chalet influences. From 1936 through the 1990s, the original building underwent multiple expansions and modifications to meet the changing needs of the ski industry. Some of the changes implemented after 1953 were not compatible with the original NPS Rustic architecture of the 1935 building. Its location in a high-elevation alpine meadow has exposed the lodge to temperature extremes, heavy snow loads, snowmelt runoff, and saturated ground conditions. These environmental stresses, coupled with inadequate site drainage and snow-melt management systems, have contributed to structural deterioration of the lodge. In addition, the building does not fully meet current building code standards. Repair and rehabilitation of the ski lodge are necessary to protect its historic integrity, ensure visitor safety, and maintain ski-area visitor services while preserving the natural and cultural resources at the ski area.

What does this project propose?

The purpose of the rehabilitation project is to provide a phased program for rehabilitation of the Badger Pass Ski Lodge that will 1) maintain and protect the integrity of the Badger Pass Ski Lodge, a contributing element of the Badger Pass Ski Area historic site; 2) ensure visitor and employee safety; 3) maintain and protect natural resources; 4) maintain ski lodge operations and service functions, and 5) protect the winter recreation visitor experience at Badger Pass Ski Area. The rehabilitation would protect areas of primary historical significance, while allowing flexibility to accommodate the needs associated with current and future ski area use in non-character-defining areas.

What alternatives have been developed?

The environmental assessment analyzes four alternatives and their potential impacts. The No Action Alternative represents continuing the existing operation and maintenance of the ski lodge (i.e., comprehensive rehabilitation would not occur). Three action alternatives represent a reasonable range of options to satisfy the purpose of and need for the project, while meeting relevant legal requirements. Alternative 2-Essential Repairs and Upgrades, includes rehabilitation of the lodge within the current building envelope involving minimal action to fulfill the basic project needs for repair and code upgrades. Alternative 3-Rehabilitation and Improvements, includes addressing needs for repair, code upgrades, and operational and visitor service improvements while maintaining existing historic integrity (environmentally- and agency-preferred alternative). Alternative 4-Emphasize Historic Character, includes a rehabilitation approach in which the original 1935 ski lodge would be restored to prominence and the non-historic buildings would be replaced with new, more efficient facilities with maximum benefit to operational and visitor service. Please refer to the environmental assessment for details on these alternatives and the analysis of their potential impacts.

What is the schedule for this project?

The public review and comment period for the environmental assessment is open through July 7, 2010. Comments on the environmental assessment will be used to prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), if appropriate, which is anticipated in fall 2010. If approved, the rehabilitation of the ski lodge would likely begin in summer 2011.

Public Participation

Review and provide comments on the environmental assessment during the public review period through July 7, 2010:

- Attend a Public Open House at the Visitor Center Auditorium in Yosemite Valley on May 26 or June 30, 2010 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The park entrance fee will be waived for people attending the open house.
- Submit an electronic comment by visiting the National Park Service's Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) system at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/yose>. Click on "Open For Comment" to see a list of all other park projects open for public comment.
- Although electronic comment submittal is encouraged, you can submit comments to:

Mail: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
Attn: Badger Pass Ski Lodge Rehabilitation
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389
Fax: 209/379-1294

Add your name to the park's planning list to receive periodic planning-related electronic notices on this and other park projects by e-mailing your request to yose_planning@nps.gov.