



PROPOSAL TO THE RANDOLPH FOREST COMMISSION TO DEVELOP GLADE SKIING IN THE RANDOLPH COMMUNITY FOREST

Date: April 5, 2017

Proposed By: Granite Backcountry Alliance

SUMMARY OF PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Granite Backcountry Alliance (“GBA”) is a 501(c)(3) New Hampshire non-profit with a mission to develop tree skiing initiatives in New Hampshire. On January 4, 2017, GBA first proposed to the Randolph Forest Commission (“RFC”) the concept of tree skiing in the Randolph Community Forest (the “Forest”) as part of a network of “ski glades” throughout the State. RFC approved GBA to perform reconnaissance on specific site locations in 2017. On February 17, 2017, GBA proposed a specific site location known as the “Crescent Ridge Glade” for tree skiing in and around the southeasterly aspect of Crescent Ridge (*See Exhibit A*). RFC requested a specific written proposal, which is as follows:

PROPOSAL

Proposed Glade Zone: The proposed Crescent Ridge Glade, in the aggregate, is approximately 50-75 total acres situated in a southeasterly to easterly aspect and depicted on *Exhibit A* attached hereto. The upper pitch of the zone contains a slope angle in the range of 25-30 degrees for approximately 300 vertical feet. The middle section is approximately 20 degrees and extends an additional 300 vertical feet. The lower section contains a tree-less wildlife area at 10-15 degrees and contains delightful views of the northern Presidential Range of the White Mountains. The skier can either ski through the wildlife area back over the nordic trails to the point of beginning or have the option to continue down a blue-blaze marked ski route to the Community Forest Road (formerly Jimtown Logging Road) and return to the parking lot. *See Exhibit A*.

Description of Crescent Ridge Glade. From atop Crescent Ridge, GBA proposes three to five “skiable lines” (which can be understood as ski corridors) that guide the skier through the trees exiting into the “fan”, which is the wide naturally gladed middle section of the Crescent Ridge Trail. Ski corridors are not trails in the traditional sense but rather low density vertical lines that are approximately 35-50 feet in width. The walls of the corridors follow the braided design method which places emphasis on patches (or islands) of vegetation within the glade to promote future regeneration to increase the stands’ resiliency and protection from wind throw. *See Figure 1 attached.*



Method of Cutting: GBA follows specific standardized cutting rules and regulations that are consistent with the requirements of the White Mountain National Forest. Specifically, GBA will apply the standards in the Forest which are as follows:

- The removal, thinning and trimming of vegetation and “saplings.” All vegetation removal will be limited to the approved boundary lines and only in a supervised manner.
- Trees to be removed will be between three (3) to four (4) inches in diameter; provided, however, that certain trees may be removed including (i) larger non-crop tree sized stems for timber stand improvement; (ii) poorly formed stems; (iii) trees showing disease or insect affliction; and/or (iv) creation of space for skier navigation (in which case tree stands will be prioritized);
- Understory shrubs and blow-downs may be removed; and
- Trees will be maintained to keep consistent stem densities, closed tree canopy, all to maintain the characteristics desirable for a backcountry skiing experience.

Glade (Trail) Design. GBA will hire Sustainable Trail Networks (STN), the consultant responsible for 17,000 vertical feet of glades in Vermont’s Green Mountain National Forest. GBA will be responsible for payment related to trail design and will indemnify RFC for any and all acts of STN.

Parking: The proposed parking lot is at the end of Randolph Hill Road and is sufficient to hold 20 cars. Winter use is significantly less than other seasons. The lot currently is and will continue to be plowed all winter.

Access. Access to the glade is by either (i) climbing the Carlton Notch Trail to Crescent Ridge Trail to the ridgeline or (ii) traversing several blue-marked nordic ski routes which flow into the 10-12 acre wildlife area and up into and above the proposed glade to the ridgeline. *See picture attached.*

Labor: GBA will provide volunteer labor services to perform a majority of the work. If acceptable, GBA proposes a work weekend August 26 and 27, 2017. In the event work is not complete, GBA will either perform additional work days in the Fall of 2017 and/or hire the Randolph Mountain Club (“RMC”) trail crew if available.

Funding. GBA will provide between \$1,000 to \$2,000 to support the project, which may include hired labor from RMC labor. If additional funds are necessary, GBA would request from RFC a financial match or allocation of funds.



Maintenance: GBA will inspect the gladed area on an annual basis. GBA will have a local team of glade representatives which will initially be Jeremiah Hawkins and David Salisbury who will be an immediate contact for RFC and will report any and all matters of significance to both GBA and RFC.

Signage: If requested by RFC and/or to be consistent with RFC practices elsewhere in the Forest, GBA will provide for signage in accordance with RFC standards.

Map: GBA will develop “skier and rider responsibility code” to post at kiosks with safety information and rules of backcountry etiquette for users to follow. These same standards will be applied at other GBA locations including the White Mountain National Forest.

Insurance: GBA will obtain insurance satisfactory to the RFC which will be equivalent to other trail organizations working in the Forest; provided, however, that in the event GBA’s volunteers are eligible for coverage under the RFC’s insurance policy, then GBA will not be required to obtain insurance.

Liability: GBA will require all volunteers to sign a release and waiver during supervised work programs and hold RFC/Forest harmless from any and all issues related to field and trail work while under supervised instruction.

Future Partnership. In the event the pilot project is successful, both both parties may identify additional locations in the Forest that are suitable for glading similar to the Crescent Ridge Glade.

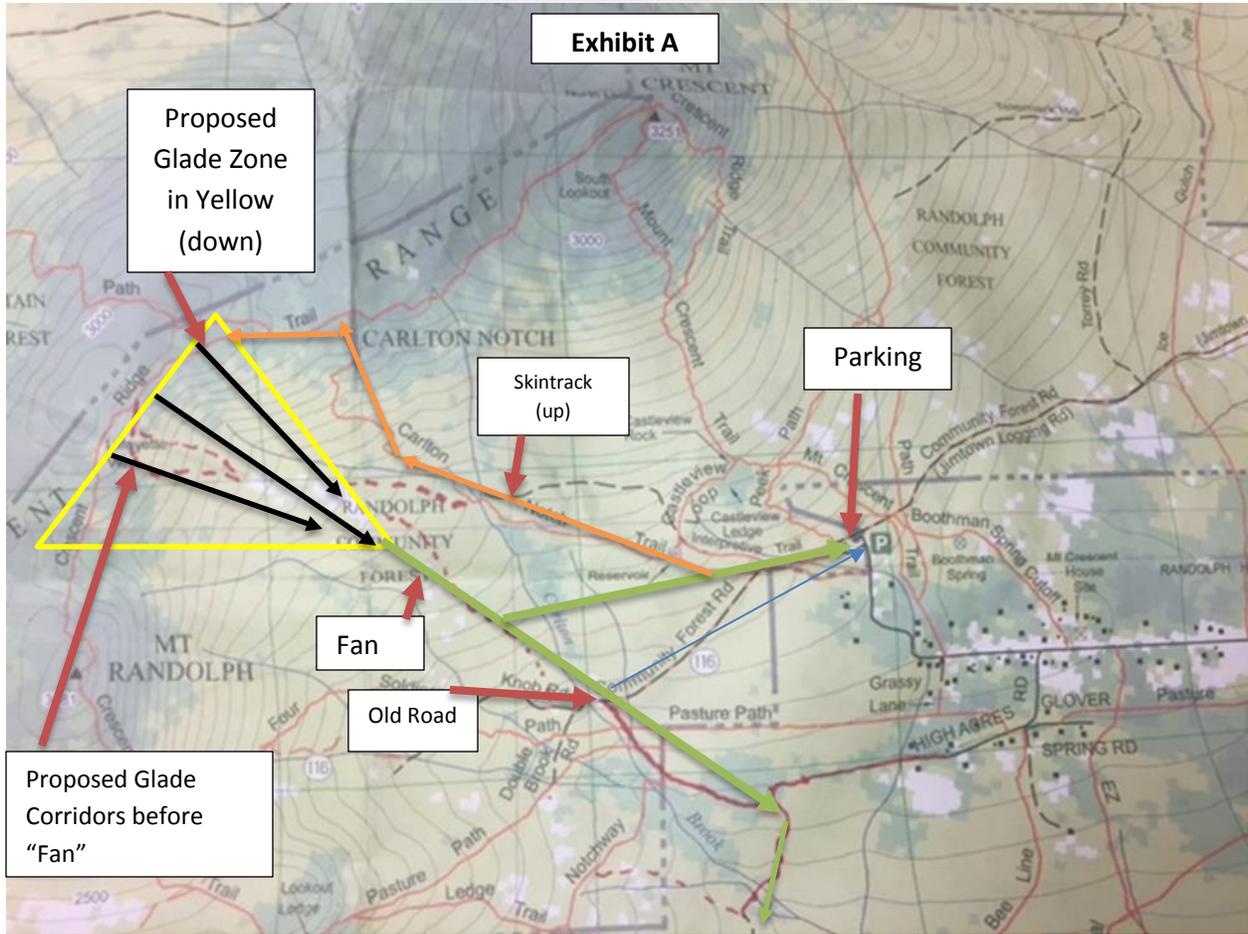
Contract/Memorandum of Understanding. If accepted, GBA will enter into a contract and/or MOU with RFC to memorialize this proposal.

Submitted by:

GRANITE BACKCOUNTRY ALLIANCE

Tyler T. Ray
Granite Chief

Date: _____



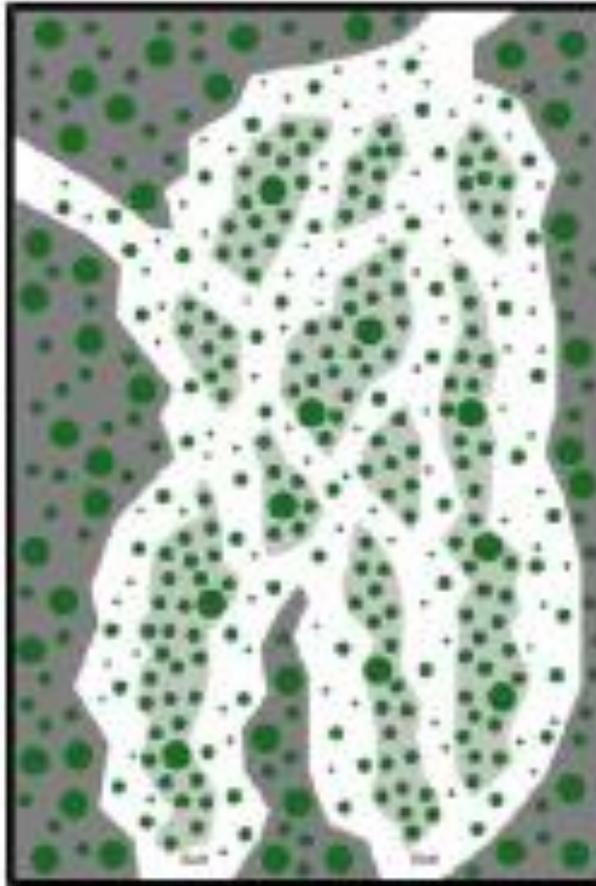


Figure 1. Example tree-skiing zone layout utilizing a braided line design with retained vegetation islands.







