Ski for Light, Inc.

Meeting Minutes

Special Board Meeting

March 17, 2025

Meeting via Zoom

President Coppens called the meeting to Order at 8:03 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

Roll Call

Executive Committee: Julie Coppens, President; Sheri Richardson, Vice President; Krista Erickson, Secretary; Tim McCorcle, Treasurer; David Fisichella, Director-at-Large; Nicole Haley, Director-at-Large.

Directors: Gregory Andrews; Robert Civiak; Gregory Cox; Judith Dixon; Marion Elmquist; Michael Evelo; Lynee Forsyth; Andrea Goddard; Melinda Hollands; Marie Huston; Nino Pacini; Donna Paterson; Amy White; Kevin Whitley; Karen Wood; and Susan Zak. Dixon joined the meeting at 9:06 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

Board Members Absent: Karen Ishibashi; Michael McCulloch; Brenda Seeger

Director Emeritus Present: Larry Showalter

Directors Emeritus Absent: Leif Andol; Einar Bergh; Nancy Milsteadt.

Guest: Cara Barnes, Site Selection Committee Chairwoman.

Approval of Annual Board Meeting Minutes

McCorcle moved and Andrews seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Annual Board meeting January 24, 2025. The motion carried unanimously. Cox and Fisichella joined the meeting immediately after this vote.

Site Selection Committee Report Included with Minutes.

Wood moved and civiak seconded a motion to include the Site Selection committee Report with the minutes of this meeting. The motion carried unanimously. Supporting site selection documents provided to the Board by the Site Selection Committee, such as proposals and contracts, are not included with these minutes.

Treasurer’s Report

Tim reported the following account balances as of the close of the markets today:

Wells Fargo Checking: $48,356.63;

Wells Fargo Savings: $188,534.60;

PayPal Bank: $17,743.28;

 total Cash: $254,634.51;

SFL Endowment Managed by BTC: $525,964.09;

Unrestricted Assets Managed by BTC: $137,071.91;

Total BTC: $663,036.00.

Tim reported that SFL will be receiving a one-hundred-thousand-dollar ($100,000.00) donation from the Flatley Foundation which is currently in process and is not included in the above account balances. SFL has also received the first royalty check from sales of the SFL 50th Anniversary Book. Tim and Nicole have reviewed an initial draft of the Compilation Report which should be finalized this week.

An initial draft of SFL’s 990 Form should be ready soon. The major bills from the recent event are settled.

2025 Event

Sheri Richardson, 2025 Event Chairwoman, shared a brief wrap-up from the Event. A post-event survey should be distributed soon, assistance from anyone familiar with using SurveyMonkey would be appreciated. Julie reported that the Executive Committee has dealt with two Code of Conduct issues stemming from the recent International Week Event. The Code of Conduct Policy will be reviewed prior to the 2026 Event applications going live.

SFL 2026

David Fisichella will be serving as Event Chairman and Melinda Hollands will be serving as Event Vice Chairwoman for the 2026 International Week Event to be held at Snow Mountain Ranch in Granby, CO.

David reported that he and Melinda are working on filling positions on the Event Planning Committee and wants to schedule the date for the Fall on-site planning meeting soon. Melinda reported that there will be a VIP Recruitment and applications meeting on March 19th to follow up on outstanding issues.

SFL 2027

Julie explained that the main purpose of this meeting is to select a site for the 2027 International Week Event. The Executive Committee saw possibilities for each possible event site but each site would be a different experience and there was not a clear consensus. The Executive Committee decided to put the possible site at Bozeman on hold due to the lunch space and other factors. A lengthy discussion then ensued about the proposed sites – West Yellowstone in Montana or Vermont with multiple lodging options to consider.

Concerns were raised about having to use two hotels in West Yellowstone.

Nicole visited the possible hotel in Burlington, Vermont. The DoubleTree can host up to seven hundred people in their convention center but questions were raised about whether or not SFL would have use of the entire meeting space in the hotel.

Stoweflake in Vermont is a full-service resort, with that option lunch would be at the ski area. Concerns were raised about prices and snow conditions. This year Stowe began skiing before the New Year, are still skiing and have superior grooming with some snow-making capabilities. West Yellowstone hosts races because there is consistent snow including at Thanksgiving. A Board member from the New England region voiced concerned about snow conditions which can be variable – SFL might be wise to choose somewhere that gets snow because we need a slam-dunk snow year as an organization after the past two events. In 2027, it will have been twenty years since SFL’s last New England event. A concern was raised about beginner terrain being limited in Vermont but there is a 5k course with only one moderately difficult hill and lots of practice area. In 2007, it rained, there was no snow and SFL skied on ice. There has been no outpouring to go back east, people want SFL to go where there is snow. If SFL opts to go back east, sooner is better because conditions will likely only get worse. Vermont (specifically Stoweflake) has skating, a pool, dog sledding and other things to do if there isn’t snow. A question was raised if the guest rooms at Stoweflake are accessible – the Site Selection Committee was not able to view an actual accessible room during their site visit. Stoweflake has five different room types with different configurations within those five types -- how would the Housing Coordinator assign rooms? West Yellowstone would cost about halfway between the estimates for Stoweflake and Burlington.

A question was raised whether or not the hotel in Burlington has a shuttle to downtown Burlington or if there is public transit available.

West Yellowstone is cold and dry similar to Snow Mountain Ranch but is at a lower altitude than SMR -- about 6,600 FT making it similar to Provo. The optics of going to Stoweflake may be a consideration. The subsidy for Stowe vs. Provo is hard to compare, for 2025 the subsidy was $310.

A question was asked of the Board members from the New England region – would they each put a nonrefundable deposit down for a ski vacation in that region, the response was mixed with only one person answering definitely yes.

Julie shared thoughts from Karen Ishibashi who couldn’t attend the meeting – Karen prefers West Yellowstone.

A Board member commented that if someone looks at a map of the U.S. Provo, Granby and West Yellow Stone are all in the same region and as an organization, SFL has historically moved the International Week Event around.

A motion was made (mover undetermined) with Pacini seconding to decide between going east or west for the 2027 Event. McCorcle proposed to amend the motion to specify an initial decision between two specifically named event sites. The assembly accepted the proposed amendment and a roll call vote was conducted resulting in thirteen (13) voting to hold the 2027 SFL International Week at [redacted] and nine (9) voting to hold the 2027 Event at [redacted].

Voting in Favor of [redacted]: Andrews; Dixon; Elmquist; Erickson; Evelo; Forsyth; Goddard; Haley; Huston; McCorcle; Paterson; Richardson; Whitley.

Voting in Favor of [redacted]: Civiak; Coppens; Cox; Fisichella; Hollands; Pacini; White; Wood; Zak.

For 2028, SFL could ask for a proposal from the site not selected and discuss further during the Summer Board meeting when numbers from the 2025 Event would be available to better know how much of a deficit that site might run.

Julie reminded the Board that this decision is confidential and will not be made public at least until contracts are in place.

Outreach Opportunity in Twin Cities

Melinda explained that SFL has been approached by an organization hosting a conference on June 26-27th in the Twin Cities inviting SFL to be on a panel about recreational activities for people who are blind/visually impaired and to have a table at the conference expo. The organization extending the invitation may cover some travel costs. Please contact Melinda or Julie soon if you’d be willing to help.

Upcoming Board Trainings

Karen Wood, Chairwoman of the Board Development and Elections Committee (BDEC) reminded the Board that the BDEC has scheduled Board trainings for April 23rd and April 30th. The trainings will focus on the roles and activities of SFL’s various coordinators and committees. If you are a coordinator or a committee chairperson, please contact Karen (if you haven’t already done so).

Next Board Meeting

The Summer Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 24th at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

Judy requested that a calendar invite be sent out for Board meetings. Questions were raised about which calendar app/program would be accessible.

Adjournment.

Wood moved and Hollands seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

**Ski for Light, Inc.**

**Site Selection Committee Report**

**March 10, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting**

Below please find three Site Visit Reports completed in 2025. The reports include Bozeman, Montana, Stowe, Vermont and West Yellowstone, Montana. Additional supplemental information will be sent via email

**Snowfall**

Consistent snowfall has become an issue in recent years and continues to be difficult to predict.

**Bozeman, MT Snowfall**

Source: <https://howmuchwillitsnow.com/in/bozeman/mt>

2018/2019 99"

2019/2020 97"

2020/202 185"

2021/2022 117"

2022/2023 147"

2023/2024 67"

2024/2025 35”

**Stowe, VT Snowfall**

Source: <https://howmuchwillitsnow.com/in/stowe/vt>

2018/2019 128"

2019/2020 95"

2020/2021 93"

2021/2022 85"

2022/2023 100"

2023/2024 103"

2024/2025 44”

**West Yellowstone, MT Snowfall**

Source: <https://howmuchwillitsnow.com/in/west-yellowstone/mt#google_vignette>

2018/2019 166"

2019/2020 153"

2020/2021 150"

2021/2022 127"

2022/2023 192"

2023/2024 123"

2024/2025 58”

**Partial Price Comparisons**

Price comparisons often feel like comparing apples and oranges as they involve a number of variables. Many lodging facilities have been reluctant to quote firm meal prices due to unknown future costs. In addition, lodging facilities can offer concessions, which add value but are not considered here as they vary widely (see individual proposals/contracts). Rates listed represent current quoted prices for similar items as a general overview. Contracts would need to be completed to lock in rates.

**Bozeman, MT**

Best Western Plus GranTree Inn

Rooms-$179.00-199.00 (plus 8% tax and $2.00 per room per night TBID)

Meeting Rooms-$500.00 per day for total function space if 85%-100% total guest rooms picked-up

Meals-(plus 20% gratuity and 2% facility fee)

$70.00 Breakfast and Dinner combined

Note: Meal prices could increase up to 50% depending on where food prices move to in the next two years.

Days Inn and Suites (overflow hotel)

Rooms-$95.00 (plus 8% tax and $2.00 per room per night Mt Tourism)

Meeting Rooms-No charge

Meals-NA

Skiing

Trail Passes-$120.00 per person per week

Ski Rental-$140.00 per person per week

Facilities Use/Grooming Fees-$1,200.00 per day (estimate)

Transportation-Karst Stage (56 passenger bus)

Airport to Hotel-Provided by the GranTree at no charge

Hotel to Ski Area-$26,473.80 (estimated total for 2 buses for 6 days)

Note: Rates increase 3-5% a year

**Stowe, VT**

Stoweflake Mountain Resort

Rooms-$229.00 (plus 10% state tax)

Meeting Rooms-Complimentary

Meals-(plus 18% service charge, 4% administrative fee, 10% state tax)

$25.00 full Breakfast Buffet

$65.00 Plated Dinner

Note: Final meal prices based on final menu selection

Sun & Ski Inn and Suites (overflow hotel for Stoweflake)

Rooms-$229.00 (plus 10% state tax)

Meeting Rooms-NA

Meals-NA

DoubleTree by Hilton (Burlington)

Rooms-$139 (plus 10% hotel occupancy tax, $1.50 destination marketing fee)

Meeting Rooms-Complimentary with food and beverage minimum

Meals-(plus 24% service charge and applicable taxes)

$24.00 Breakfast Buffet

$42.00 Plated Dinner

Note: Final pricing may vary based on items selected during planning.

Skiing

Trail Passes-$18.00 per person per day

Ski Rental-$28.00 per person per day

Facilities Use/Grooming Fees-None

Transportation

Airport to Hotel

DoubleTree-Provided at no charge

Stoweflake-$1,500.00 per bus (Charter Bus Vermont/Fleet Transportation 55 passenger bus)

Hotel to Ski Area

Double Tree-$34,000.00 (Two 55 passenger buses for 5.5 hours for five days, three 55 passenger buses for 5.5 hours for one day)

Stoweflake-$12,000.00 (Two 14 passenger buses for 5.5 hours for six days)

Hotel to Hotel Shuttle

DoubleTree-NA

Stoweflake-$6,000,00 (One 14 passenger bus for 6 hours for six days)

**West Yellowstone, MT**

Holiday Inn West Yellowstone and the Gray Wolf Inn and Suites

Rooms-$159.00 per night for double queen/King/ADA rooms

$199.00 per night for deluxe suites/family rooms (plus 8% state accommodation tax, 4% city tax and a $2.00 per room night TBID assessment).

Meeting Rooms-Complimentary with a food and beverage minimum

Meals-(plus 4% tax and 18% gratuity)

$20.00 Breakfast

$45.00 Dinner

Note: A 5-10% increase in meal costs is possible by 2027

Skiing

Trail Passes-$15.00 per person per day

Ski Rental-$35.00 per person per day (per internet)

Facilities Use/Grooming Fees-None

Transportation-Karst Stage (56 passenger bus)

Airport to Hotel-$2,206.15 per bus (plus $5 per person airport fee)

Note: Rates increase 3-5% a year

Hotel to Hotel shuttle-TBD

**About Taxes**

Nicole Haley reviewed tax information for the states of Montana and Vermont and provided the following information.

Montana has a 4% statewide accommodations tax and additional resort taxes in designated resort areas, West Yellowstone is one such area. Nonprofits are not exempt from these taxes. Montana doesn’t have a meals tax, but the resort tax can apply to meals in some districts,

Vermont does not exempt nonprofits from lodging or meals taxes. Nonprofits are exempt from the general sales tax in Vermont. The resort destination fee applies to the Burlington Area specifically.

**Tahoe City, CA, Winthrop, WA and Bellaire, MI**

The Granlibakken Tahoe has provided a proposal for 2027 with rates from $226.00-$374.00 single occupancy. The facility has studios, suites and motel style rooms, some of which are owned by individuals, similar to the Inn at Silver Creek. There are on site banquet and catering services and 16 meeting rooms. The Granlibakken is approximately 10 minutes from Tahoe XC Center and 30 minutes from Tahoe Donner, where the group skied in 2018. Jean Snuggs has graciously agreed to provide some boots on the ground to help scout for other hotels in the area. A site visit is not being recommended at this time.

In December 2024 Nancy Milstead contacted the Sun Mountain Lodge in Winthrop, WA and a proposal for 2027 was received on January 21, 2025. There are approximately 98 hotel style rooms of various configurations (including 2 ADA rooms) as well as one-, two-, and three-bedroom cabins. Hotel style rooms are priced at $129.00 per night with cabins priced at $149 to $229.00 per night, depending on size. There is also a resort fee of $23.00 per night and applicable taxes. There is sufficient space for group meals and some limited meeting space.

Skiing would be on the Methow trail system which contains approximately 200 km of multi-use trails. There is a local river rafting company with buses that may be able to be contracted for local transportation. A couple of 15 passenger vehicles could also be rented. This location would be a ski (or shuttle) out the door with lunch back at the lodge. The Spokane International Airport is the nearest major airport to Winthrop with an approximate 3.5-hour drive from the airport to Winthrop.

While the Sun Mountain Lodge proposal is for 2027, the Lodge has expressed a willingness to provide a proposal for 2028, and at this point, it may make more sense to consider this as a possible 2028 option. Even though the travel distance is a little outside our parameters and the facility may require a limited size event, a site visit should be considered.

On February 19, 2025 an email was received from Shannon Hooper at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire, Michigan expressing interest in making a proposal for 2028.

Respectfully submitted by Cara Barnes

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**Site Visit Report**

**Date of Visit: January 3, 2025**

**Proposed Event Dates: February 11-21, 2027**

**Hotel Name(s): Best Western Plus GranTree In, Days Inn and Suites**

**Ski Site Name: Crosscut Mountain Sports Center**

**Introduction**

Bozeman is in Gallatin County Montana and is the county seat. It was founded in 1864 and incorporated in 1883. The 2020 census put Bozeman’s population at 53,293 making it the fourth largest city in Montana. Bozeman is located at an elevation of 4,820 feet above sea level and was known as the Vally of the Flowers by indigenous peoples who lived in and traveled through the area for thousands of years. Today, Bozeman is the home of Montana State University, the state’s largest research university, and a vibrant cultural and recreational scene.

**Hotel/Lodging**

The primary event hotel would be the Best Western Plus GranTree Inn with the Days Inn and Suites as the overflow hotel. The two facilities are across a parking lot from one another (approximately a 1–2-minute walk), A partial path exists that could be augmented with audible signals.

The GranTree Inn recently went through a change in ownership and renovation of rooms is scheduled to begin in April 2025. Currently there are 120 rooms including 49 double queen rooms, 47 king rooms (5 are ADA), 23 suites and 1 bridal suite. The ADA rooms viewed had showers with shower chairs or folding benches and standard height beds.

Originally the GranTree Inn quoted a price of $199 (plus 8% tax and $2.00 per room per night TBID). In a subsequent email exchange $179.00 was offered with a clause it can be raised depending on the market.

The days Inn and Suites has a total of 113 rooms and has quoted a price of $95 per night for 40 rooms, king or double queen, (plus 8% tax and $2.00 per room per night Mt Tourism). Both facilities have similar amenities including internet, refrigerators, microwaves and Braille signage. Both hotels have indoor pools and hot tubs and the Days Inn also has a sauna. Both pools have lifts but only the hot tub at the GranTree Inn has a lift. In addition, the GranTree Inn has a 24-hour exercise facility which was remodeled in 2019.

**Meeting Space**

Meals and most activities would take place at the GranTree Inn. There is an atrium (42 x 65’) which could be used as space for morning stretching and receptions. There is a partial glass block wall and gate between the atrium and the pool. There are two meeting rooms off the atrium (32 x 29’) with an air wall in between. The Grand Ballroom (90 x 48’) consists of four rooms joined together. The Grand Ball Room can seat approximately 344 with nothing else (bar, stage etc.) in the room. There is an irregular shaped foyer in front of the Grand Ballroom that is approximately 1,950 square feet.

The GranTree Inn does not provide complimentary meeting space, but does offer the following discounted meeting space arrangements.

85%-100% total guest rooms picked up $500.00 per day total function space rental

50%-84% total guest rooms picked up $1000.00 per day total function space rental

26%-49% total guest rooms picked up $1500.00 per day total function space rental

0%-25% total guest rooms picked up $2500.00 per day total function space rental

There is a meeting room and a breakfast room at the Quality Inn and Suites which could be used for Special interest Sessions or other afternoon meetings at no charge.

**Food Service**

Group meals would take place in the Grand Ballroom at the GranTree Inn. There is also a restaurant and bar located near the front desk. A combined price of $70.00 per person per day for breakfast and dinner was quoted -(plus 20% gratuity and 2% facility fee). The proposal/contract also notes that meal prices could rise.

**Issues/Concerns**

Meeting space is tight but workable due to the two meeting rooms available at the Days Inn and Suites. The limited space would likely require the Sales and Information Rooms to share a space.

**Ski Site**

Crosscut Mountain Sports Center is a non-profit organization that encompasses approximately 500 acres, including the Bohart Ranch property. A one-half hour drive from Bozeman, Crosscut has been the U.S. Paralympics Nordic Team’s training hub since 2017 and the current biathlon stadium was built in 2021.

Crosscut offers 45km of groomed winter trails. Approximately 30km are full width Nordic ski trails for skiing only, with the capacity to be double tracked. This includes approximately 8km of beginner trails, 14km of intermediate trails, and 8km of expert trails. Approximately 10km of additional trails are narrow multi-use for Nordic skiing, fat-biking, and snow-showing.

There are green and blue trails near the biathlon range and practice tracks could be put in the stadium area. The area around the biathlon range and the range could become part of a 5km course. Crosscut has some laser biathlon equipment and is willing to discuss a demo day. The open areas can sometimes be a bit windy, but once in the trees, the wind dies down

There is currently no snowmaking capability. Grooming is done using two Prinoth full size groomers, Ginzu groomer, snowmobile drags and additional rollers. Crosscut charges a daily facilities and grooming fee for groups and events. The rate is dependent on the specific group needs, any exclusivity that may affect public access, and the specific grooming needs, as well as any additional Crosscut staff needs. The current estimate is $1,200/day.

**Inside Space**

There is no inside space large enough for the group to have lunch. There is a large parking lot at the biathlon range and lunch would be served in a tent in the parking lot. Portable toilets would also be needed. There is a small yurt on a trail between the biathlon range and the ski rental building which could be reserved for the event. It is not big enough for a group lunch but could be an alternative warming place. The yurt would need to be reserved in advance because it is not heated unless it is being used.

The rental shop is accessible and has an accessible bathroom. Future plans include a lodge and training facility. No start or completion date has been announced.

**Storage Space**

Secure storage space for skis is available but was not viewed during the site visit.

It is possible for Crosscut to make a garage available for waxing if needed, but this space is only suitable for a small group to wax skis.

**Food Service**

No food service currently exists at Crosscut. Lunch would need to be catered.

**Ski Rentals and Trail Fees**

Crosscut can provide at least 75-80 classic rental ski packages (Rossignol Evo packages) at $140 for the week and is offering discounted trail fees of $120/week per person.

**Issues/Concerns**

Using tents to create a warm space large enough for lunch has been a challenge in the past at other locations. Crosscut uses an electronic waiver system from a different provider than the system used at Soldier Hollow. The accessibility of the system would need to be explored.

**Transportation**

Participants would fly into Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport. Airlines currently serving the airport include Alaska, American, Delta, Southwest and United. The GranTree Inn is a little over 9 miles, 14 minutes driving time, from the airport and offers a free airport shuttle.

Crosscut Mountain Sports Center is approximately ½ hour driving time (17 miles) from the GranTree Inn. Karst Stage provides charter bus service in the area. The current rate for a 56-passenger bus from the airport to the GranTree Inn (if needed) is $1,103.09 plus a $5 per person airport fee for airport pickups. If two buses were used to shuttle participants to/from Crosscut for six days, the current price would be $26,473.80. Two of the company’s charter buses are lift equipped. Karst Stage has not yet set prices for the winter 2027 season although each year their rates increase between 3-5% (sometime in the fall). Rates would be locked in when a contract is signed and a deposit paid.

**Other Notes and Observations**

In 2007 Bohart Ranch was discussed as a possible venue. At that time the terrain was considered more suitable for skilled skiers. What has changed is the acquisition of additional property allowing for beginner trails, and the addition of a biathlon range.

**Conclusions**

Although there is currently no snow making capability at Crosscut, snow was in abundance. It snowed during the site visit and in places tracks that had been set that morning were difficult to find due to the falling snow. The combination of the GranTree Inn and the Days Inn and Suites allow for enough sleeping and meeting rooms for the group. Bozeman is a viable event venue if the Board is willing to again consider two hotels and a tent at the ski area.

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**Report of Site Visit to Stowe Vermont**

**Feb. 23, 2025**

**Date of Visit: February 4 – 6, 2025**

**Hotel Name(s): Stoweflake Mountain Resort and Spa**

**Sun & Ski Inn and Suites**

**Doubletree by Hilton, Burlington, Vermont**

**Ski Site Name: Trapp Family Lodge**

**Introduction**

Stowe Vermont is a destination ski town in the Green Mountains of North Central Vermont. It gets the highest annual snowfall in New England. According to <https://www.onthesnow.com/vermont/stowe-mountain-resort/historical-snowfall>, Stowe Mountain Resort, the base of which is at 1,539 feet, gets an average snowfall of 217 inches per year. Trapp Family Lodge is at 1,358 feet and is in the same snow belt. The average snow depth in February is 25 inches.

Stowe is a four seasons destination that is chock-a-block with small inns, restaurants, and lots of shopping. The quaint New England village has a lovely historic ski museum and of course a large general store where you can find almost anything. There are at least six craft brewers in Stowe, including the world-famous Alchemist Brewery that gives tours several times a day. The even more world-famous Ben and Jerry’s factory, which also gives tours, is about a 15-minute drive from Stoweflake. There is also a wide choice of local performers for evening activities.

Trapp Family Lodge could be available for us to begin our main event in 2027 on Sunday, Jan. 24, Jan. 31, or Feb 21 and suggested that the snow was more reliable for the later dates. Stoweflake originally offered us Jan. 31, but then withdrew that date in favor of Jan. 24. The proposal from the Doubletree was based on Jan. 31. Trapp Family Lodge also said they would extend the same price to us to 2028.

**Hotel/Lodging**

**Stoweflake Mountain Resort and Spa** (Option 1)

Contact Person: Chris Belanger, Director of Sales and Marketing,

Main: +1 (802) 253-7355  
Direct: +1 (802) 760-1049  
Mobile: +1 (802) 730-2615  
[chrisb@stoweflake.com](mailto:chrisb@stoweflake.com)

The Stoweflake Mountain Resort and Spa has begun a large renovation that is scheduled to be completed by December this year (2025). Two small/local bars are being added as well as a much larger lobby bar. The main restaurant, 30 spa rooms, and “all” hotel rooms are being refurbished as well. Where possible, single queen rooms are being turned into double queen rooms.

There is NO Braille signage at this time, but renovations coming this year promise complete Braille signage.

**Rooms**

The Stoweflake offers 116 guest rooms in the main building and 33 rooms in onsite condos.

66 of these rooms have one king or queen bed in them and many have pullout beds and/or are suites with a bed in a private area and pullout in the living area.

35 of the rooms have 2 queen beds.

15 of the rooms have 2 double beds.

The 33 condo rooms are on-property, about .30 miles from the main building. They are along an on-property road that should have almost zero traffic on it (if we use the condos). A very good blind person could navigate between the main building and the condos via our beepers (much like Snow Mountain Ranch), but I wouldn’t wish to be that person. Alternatively, if groups of people wished more privacy, the condos are a good alternative and they have amenities that the main building does not offer (like a washer/drier, Jacuzzi tub in each condo, full kitchen, etc.). These rooms would also be quite viable if we use a shuttle service (see transportation area for details).

There are 2 queen-queen ADA rooms and 1 king suite, which they call “accessible,” but which does not comply with ADA requirements. The so called “accessible” suite has a walk-in shower, but it has a curb. The bed is about 24 inches tall. This suite living area has a pull-out bed that is about 16 inches tall, but it’s not very comfortable and some room rearranging is necessary to pull out the bed. It is not clear if any additional ADA rooms are being planned during the renovations. We were also not allowed to view an ADA compliant room as both were occupied. The manager reported that bed height in these ADA rooms is 18 inches. He further stated that they have at least 5 shower chairs available.

**Banquet space**

The Pinnacle room seats up to 375 people for dining. The Atrium area, open to the main hallway, can also be used for meals/etc. for up to about 100 people.

**Meeting Space**

Stoweflake has plenty of meeting space including:

1. The Stowe room, 2580 Sq. Ft, which can be divided into two rooms large enough to accommodate over 100 people each.
2. The Atrium which is open to the main hall, but can be closed to form another 1,800 Sq. Ft meeting room.
3. The Green Mountain room, 1500 Sq. Ft, which can be divided into two rooms large enough to accommodate over 60 people each.
4. The Collins area, 1000 Sq. Ft, which is an open area on the first floor, conference level, which is really the entrance lobby to the Pinnacle.
5. The Beatrice room, smaller than the rest, but large enough for about 50 people in a theater set up.
6. The Executive Board room, contains a large table that easily sits 20 people (plus plenty of space around the walls for additional seating).

The above meeting rooms are all accessible. There are three additional meeting rooms that would need to be accessed by going through the kitchen area. There are accessible restrooms near all meeting rooms.

**Food Service**

Stoweflake offers a complete line of food services with a “locally renowned” catering chef. They will have a complete restaurant (currently under renovation), separate from the catering area, to be completed by the end of 2025. They will also have at least 2 small area bars and 1 main lobby bar by the end of the year as well.

Stoweflake quoted us prices of $25/person for breakfast (buffet) and $65/person for dinner, plus 32% service charges and taxes. However, the proposal notes that the prices will depend upon our choices of menus and could be quite a bit lower.

**Issues/Concerns**

Stoweflake has only two self-identified, ADA accessible rooms. We were not able to confirm that they are truly ADA compliant as they were occupied at the time of our visit. This is troubling as the, also self-identified, “accessible suite” we were able to view is NOT ADA compliant. When asked about this, the manager said that it was accessible because it had a stand up shower instead of a tub. Since the shower has a curb, it’s not accessible by definition.

In addition to the above, the manager glossed over the area of access when asked about the accessibility of 3 additional meeting rooms on a lower level. It took a bit of conversation to discover that they could be accessed by going through the kitchen area. We do not need these rooms, but double talk is concerning.

**Hotel/Lodging (Addendum to Option 1)**

**Sun & Ski Inn and Suites**

Contact Person: Tom Scott

General Manager

518-538-4990

This is an addendum to the Stoweflake Mountain Resort and Spa site visit report. This hotel is being considered as an overflow location. It is located about 0.3 miles from the Stoweflake Mountain Resort, across a relatively busy road.

Sun & Ski is going through a major renovation and expansion in 2025. Once complete, it will offer about 35 double rooms with queen beds. They will also have about 55 other rooms offering only 1 bed (of various sizes). The manager thought that 3 ADA compliant rooms will be part of the 35 double queen rooms.

**Meeting Space**

N/A as we would be using meeting spaces in the Stoweflake Mountain Resort.

**Food Service**

Sun & Ski does have an on-site bar and restaurant currently. After the renovation is complete, the restaurant will expand to include a breakfast service. A continental breakfast is offered with each room.

**Issues/Concerns**

After the renovation, the manager stated that the complex would be fully ADA compliant.

ISSUE: Using this site for overflow purposes is ONLY viable if we use a shuttle service! The road that runs between this site and the Stoweflake Mountain Resort is far too busy to be crossed safely by most people.

**Conclusions regarding Sun and Ski**

On the plus side: This property offers a nice alternative to using the condos at Stoweflake. The 35 double queen rooms would be easier to fill than the variety of condo rooms being offered. In addition, it is anticipated that as many as three of these double queen rooms would be ADA compliant.

On the minus side: Unlike using the condos, using this hotel would absolutely require a shuttle service!

**Hotel/Lodging (Option 2)**

**Doubletree by Hilton, Burlington Vermont (Hotel and Conference Center)**

Contact: Alan Hebert, Event Manager

802-865-6620

[ALAN.HEBERT@hilton.com](mailto:ALAN.HEBERT@hilton.com)

We had already returned from the Stowe site visit when we had the idea to check Burlington for more cost-efficient lodging. Much of the following information comes from the web (<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/btvbsdt-doubletree-burlington-vermont/>), and phone conversations with the Event manager. However, prices and some specifics are contained in the proposal.

The Doubletree Burlington is a large conference center. It has 311 guest rooms (at least 6 “accessible” rooms), 30,000 square feet of meeting space, 2 onsite restaurants, indoor pool, workout room free airport shuttle (to/from Burlington International (BTV)), free parking, free WIFI and more. This property underwent a 17 million dollar renovation recently.

This property offers up to 311 rooms, at least 6 of which are “accessible”. The quoted room rate is $139 per night (plus 10% hotel occupancy tax, and $1.50 marketing fee). They will honor any available tax exemptions for which we qualify, provided that we provide proper timely documentation).

**Meeting Space**

This location has 30,000SQFT of meeting space including 20 meeting rooms and one room that is over 8,500SQFT.

**Food Service**

The conference center has two onsite restaurants and a bar (part of The Tavern restaurant) as well as full event catering capabilities.

Quoted current meal rates are subject to change depending on meals selected.

Continental Breakfast $17, buffet breakfast $24, Lunch plated or boxed $24, dinner plated $42 and dinner buffet $40. Plus 24% service charge and applicable taxes.

**Issues/Concerns**

Transportation to/from TFP would be about 44 minutes (according to Google). Since this location was not visited by us, no issues or concerns are apparent at this time.

**Ski Site**

**Trapp Family Lodge Nordic Center**

Contact Person: David Rye, Outdoor Center Director

802 829-1516Drye@trappfamily.com

Johannes von Trapp of the famed Austrian Trapp Family Singers (think the Sound of Music) opened the first cross-country ski center in the United States in 1968, next to the Trapp Family Lodge. Today the Nordic Center at Trapp Family Lodge is a modern facility with over 60 km of groomed cross country ski trails and world class grooming equipment. The terrain near the Nordic Center is primarily gentle rolling hills in the woods, which is where the SFL trails will be. All of the trails that we will ski on are wide enough for two sets of tracks and an adjacent skating lane. The start, finish, and practice areas are in an open flat area that can be groomed with multiple sets of tracks. The more adventuresome can climb 800 feet over several different trails to a backcountry cabin that serves soup, snacks, and hot cider in front of a roiling wood fire.

The site visit team (Nino Pacini and Bob Civiak) paid special attention to finding a 5-k trail, suitable for beginner skiers. Most of the trail that we recommend is very gentle terrain that will be continuously tracked. There are few trail crossings, so the skiers will not have to get in and out of tracks repeatedly as we had to do at Soldier Hollow. The trail goes close to the Nordic center after about 3½ km and then goes out for another 1½ km loop to complete the 5-k. Thus, beginners have the option of skiing 1½, 3½, or 5-k on the SFL beginner trails. There is only one fairly lengthy climb of about ½ kilometer distance and about 100 feet in elevation. That climb begins about 1 k into the course. In good conditions, some skiers could stay in the tracks for the entire climb, but most beginners will need to herringbone a portion of it. There is only one somewhat challenging downhill near the end of the first 3½-k that will have to be skied twice to complete the 5-k course. It is very wide (perhaps 30 feet) and flat at the bottom with no turns. Skiers will need to snowplow that hill or take their skis off. Nino had no difficulty at all going down that hill.

We estimate that it is about 10% more difficult than the SFL 5K at Snow Mountain Ranch and about 30% easier than the SFL 5K at Soldier Hollow. To further assess its difficulty, Bob invited a blind novice skier friend to ski that hill with them. She was a little fearful when Bob described the hill to her, but she skied down it twice without any problem. The hill is very close to the Nordic Center and novice skiers can practice on it before venturing out on the course. **Nino and Bob have absolutely no reservations in recommending this course for our 5-k skiers.**

There are numerous options for a 10-k course at Trapps. Bob and Nino skied the 5-k course that Trapp’s uses for high school races. There are several medium length downhills on which most skiers will want to use a half snowplow on at least a portion of the hills. We skied this course on new snow, which was fairly slow. In faster conditions some of those medium hills might require full snowplows. There was one shorter, but steeper hill with a turn at the bottom that will require a good full snowplow. This was still quite easy in the conditions that we skied, but could be a challenge in faster conditions. One option would be to ski two laps on this course. **Nino and Bob have absolutely no reservations in recommending this course for our 10-k skiers.** As noted above, there are many other options for the 10-k skiers (some more difficult and some easier than the high school race course). The final decision on the course can be made at the time of the event, when the conditions are known.

There is a large open area near the Nordic Center that could be tracked with several loops of flat terrain for beginner skiers. That would be similar to the flat tracks that went around the stadium at Soldier Hollow. There are also several practice hills for beginners close to the Nordic Center.

Our major concern with the trails is that part of the last 1½-k of the 5-k course goes outbound on the heavily used “Sugar Road” that will have skiers from the public on it. That trail is a 2-way trail and some members of the public might be using our tracks and skiing towards our skiers. However, that section of the trail is quite flat and there is a very wide skating lane that the public could use to avoid us. If some of our beginners want to head out on Sugar Road and do not want to complete the 1½ k trail (which ends with the downhill described above) they could turn around and return on Sugar Road, but they should avoid using the track, which will have outbound skiers.

The Nordic Center Director, David Rye, was fully in agreement in trying to close off as many of the trails we use for our routes as possible to the public. Not all of them can be, but discouraging and/or informational signage could be put out (as it is at all our venues.

While we hope it will not be needed, the Nordic Center currently has snowmaking for about 3-k of trails. They have plans to extend that, but I would not count on that.

When asked bluntly, David stated that their world class grooming equipment could easily do any kind of tracking we wished. Neither the projected 5K or 10K trails strictly conform to the length prescribed in our SFL Policy Manual for length (they are longer), but we feel that the grade up helps temper this shortfall.

**Inside Space**

There is a 2-story Nordic Center. The basement includes the ski rental area, wax rooms, numerous storage lockers, and small men’s and women’s bathrooms. **The basement is not accessible to wheel-chair users.** More on this under issues/concerns below.

The upstairs (which is accessible) has a large fireplace and a resting/snack area with tables, chairs, and benches that could fit 40-50 people (including members of the public), but no bathrooms. There is also a well-stocked ski shop with a good selection of ski gear and all the expensive clothing one might desire.

**Storage Space**

Just outside the Nordic Center is a ~25-foot-diameter yurt, with a wood stove and 3 or 4 small tables and chairs that serve as an extra warming area. The yurt will be locked overnight and is where we will store our skis.

Warming/Staging Tent

Trapp Family Lodge expressed concern that they might not have enough warming/hanging around space for MOST of our group (at once). They recommend possibly renting a heated hospitality tent onsite to augment their space for our people to stage in (at our expense). We don’t think that will be necessary.

**Ski Rentals**

The ski center can accommodate 70-90 rental ski packages. All bindings are the NNN system. The quoted ski package rental price is $28 per day ($168 for our week). Each additional day is also $28. This is 20% below their usual price.

Trapps has approximately 90 sets of ski equipment right now. They feel that they can meet our needs adequately. There are several other ski rental places in the area, if needed. We would need to make those arrangements directly IF more ski packages were required.

Trail pass cost has been reduced to $18 per person per day (40% below their usual rate).

**Food Service**

Lunch will be provided by the elegant Trapp Family lodge in their main dining room. During the winter, only breakfast and dinner are provided to hotel guests, so we will have the entire dining room available to us from 11:30 am -1:30 pm. There is seating for about 120 people in this room, but there is an adjacent room that seats about 40 more people. This should allow us to do flow through lunches like before.

Per the proposal from Trapp’s, “Lunch would consist of a daily Chef’s Choice sandwich, daily soup option, lemonade, and various condiments. Vegetarian options would be available daily and a gluten free option can be prepared, if arranged in advance. The cost for lunch would be $25 per person per day, inclusive of tax and gratuity.”

The entire Lodge is wheel-chair accessible. There are men’s and women’s bathrooms near the dining room. There are also several elegant sitting areas in the lodge and a bar, which will be available for our use (within reason). For devotees of the Trapp Family, there are lots of mementos and photos on the walls as well as a guided tour of their Trappiness.

**Issues/Concerns**

The Lodge is about 100 M from the Nordic Center – a 2 to 3 minute walk. Unfortunately, the only way to get between them is to walk on a plowed road. Virtually the only traffic on the road is cars going to the parking lots for the Lodge and Nordic Center, so there is very little traffic.

As noted above, there are no accessible bathrooms in the Nordic Center. Wheel-chair users could go to the accessible bathrooms in the Lodge, but that would be a hassle, if they are not ready for their lunch or if they are waiting for transportation. The Nordic Center has set up accessible port-a-potties for other events at the edge of the parking lot (about 50 feet from the Nordic center) and we could do so also at our expense.

**Transportation**

The airport in Burlington, Vermont is about a 45-minute drive from the hotels in Stowe. This will allow us to use only one bus on arrival days, since it can make multiple trips. There is also private car service available for late arrivals at a cost starting at $120 for 1 person (add $5 per additional person up to 6).

Burlington International is not a very large airport, but it is served by Delta, American, United, Sun Country, and Frontier airlines. There are non-stop flights from Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Dallas, Minneapolis and several eastern cities. However, many westerners may have to take overnight flights in order to reach Burlington by late afternoon for shuttles to our hotels.

It is also possible to fly into Boston, Montreal, or Manchester, NH. However, we do not anticipate providing bus service to those locations. Driving times from those cities are 3½ hours, 2½ hours (plus border time), and 2½ hours respectively.

Stoweflake and the Sun & ski Inn are less than 3 miles from Trapp Family Lodge. We anticipate running continuous shuttles between the hotels and the ski areas in the morning and the afternoon.

While these hotels are only 300 meters apart, they are across a fairly busy road from each other. Thus, we also anticipate running continuous shuttles between the hotels from 6:30 to 9:30 am and from 4 pm to 10 pm to facilitate group activities.

The Doubletree Burlington conference center offers free airport to hotel shuttles which would reduce or eliminate the need for such transportation to/from Stowe on arrival and departure days. Our cost estimates do include one additional bus on the first and last Sunday. Of course, daily bus transportation would be needed to/from the ski site.

**Other Notes and Observations**

**Cost estimate**

Unfortunately, Stowe is currently likely to be the most expensive venue at which the Ski for Light International event has ever been held.

We estimate that the cost for lodging, meals (staying at The Stoweflake & Sun and Ski), trail passes, and transportation for 265 people would be about $518 thousand or just under $2,000 per person. A provisional calculation with event prices of $1,180 for a double room and $1,780 for a single room would leave Ski for Light responsible for about **$185 thousand** in unrecovered costs for room, board, transportation, and ski passes -- or about **$697 per attendee**.

The high cost is primarily due to the price the two hotels have proposed, which is $229 per night plus 10% Vermont sales tax, for a total of $252/night. That compares very unfavorably with the price we just paid at the Marriot in Provo of only $139/night. Since Stowe is very busy with skiers in the winter, hotels in this vicinity can often rent virtually all of their rooms, especially on weekends.

Staying at The Doubletree in Burlington would reduce the cost per room by almost $100 per night. Quoted plated dinners are also approximately $23 less than at The Stoweflake ($42 versus $65). Breakfasts appear to cost about the same.

A provisional calculation based on staying at the Doubletree in Burlington, with event prices of $1,180 for a double room and $1,740 for a single room would leave Ski for Light responsible for about **$92 thousand** in unrecovered costs for room, board, transportation, and ski passes -- or about **$342** per attendee.

The cost calculations are presented in Excell spreadsheets that were transmitted with this report.

**Conclusions**

The site visit team (Nino and Bob) believe that Stowe would be one of the most attractive and interesting locations that SFL has ever visited and we recommend it be considered for 2027, without reservation. The ski area is excellent and has ample terrain for both our beginners and more advanced skiers. The snow is as reliable as any natural-snow site we have been to, with the exception of Snow Mountain Ranch.

Stoweflake Mountain Resort is very nice and has more than enough conference space to meet our needs. Unfortunately, it does not have enough rooms for us, so we would need to use a nearby hotel for overflow. Even more unfortunately, it is very expensive. As noted above, unless we charge exorbitant event fees, we estimate that Ski for Light would need to make up about $185 thousand in unrecovered costs or about $697 per attendee.

Staying at the Doubletree in Burlington, would reduce the costs significantly. We have not visited it, but it appears to be a highly rated hotel, with more than enough rooms and meeting space. The Board will need to weigh the additional cost of lodging and food at the Stoweflake and the inconvenience of being in two hotels against the convenience of staying in one hotel, albeit a 45 minute drive from the ski area in good weather. If the Board chooses this option, Bob could easily drive up for an inspection to make sure there are no hidden problems.

This is a difficult choice that needs to take the overall finances of Ski for Light into consideration. At this point, without a detailed review of our finances, Nino would recommend staying in Burlington and Bob would recommend staying in Stowe.

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**Site Visit Report**

**Date of Visit: January 2, 2025**

**Proposed Event Dates: January 14-24, 2027**

**Hotel Name(s): Holiday Inn West Yellowstone, Gray Wolf Inn & Suites**

**Ski Site Name: Rendezvous Ski Trails**

**Introduction**

West Yellowstone is a town in Gallatin County Montana, that serves as a gateway to Yellowstone National Park. It was founded in 1908 and incorporated in 1966. The town sits at an altitude of 6,660 feet above sea level and in the 2020 census the population was listed as 1,272. In 1905 E.H. Harriman, president of the Union Pacific Railroad, and Frank J. Haynes, president of Monida & Yellowstone Stage Line visited Yellowstone National Park (established in 1872). Harriman decided to construct a railroad branch from St. Anthony, Idaho to the west entrance of the national park. By late November 1907 the tracks were laid and in June 1908, the first train, filled with tourists arrived.

**Hotel/Lodging**

The Holiday Inn West Yellowstone would be the primary event hotel and the Gray Wolf Inn& Suites would be the overflow hotel. Both hotels are owned by Delaware North, a privately owned food, venue, concessions and hotel management company. Both hotels would be covered on one contract.

The Holiday Inn has 123 rooms including 84 rooms with two queen beds, 16 rooms with a king bed, 9 ADA rooms (roll in showers and 20-inch bed height), 3deluxe suites and 9 family rooms (3 beds in each).

There are 96 rooms at the Gray Wolf including 67 rooms with two queen beds and 10 rooms with a king bed. While the rooms at the Holiday Inn are slightly larger, both hotels have similar amenities including refrigerators, microwaves and internet. Both have elevators, Braille signage, indoor pools with lifts and hot tubs without lifts.

Room rates for 2027 are $159 per night for double queen/King/ADA rooms, and $199 per night for deluxe suites/family rooms (exclusive of applicable taxes). There is an 8% state accommodation tax, a 4% city tax and a $2.00 per room night TBID assessment.

**Meeting Space**

The meeting space at the Holiday Inn includes a Board Room (12 x 24’) that seats approximately 20 around a conference table, three meeting rooms (52 x 31’), and Hayden Hall (43 x 97’), which would be used for meals.

Hayden Hall is often used for storage in the winter, but can be heated for events. Two of the three rectangular meeting rooms can be divided in half to create two (26 x 31’) rooms. When divided, the best way to enter the second room is through the first, which could be problematic if used for Special Interest Sessions. In addition, there is a breakfast room which could be used for lunch (if needed) or afternoon meetings, and a game room.

There are no meeting rooms at the Gray Wolf, although there is a breakfast area off the lobby.

**Food Service**

The Holiday Inn has a restaurant and bar and meals for the group would be prepared by the same kitchen. Current meal price estimates are $20 for breakfast and $45 for dinner (plus 4% tax and 18% gratuity). A 5-10 percent increase is possible by 2027 depending on food prices. Lunches can also be prepared if needed. Liquor laws allow drinks from the bar to be consumed in meeting rooms and other hotel spaces.

**Issues/Concerns**

The available meeting space is workable but would likely require the Sales and Information Rooms to share a space.

The walk between the Gray Wolf and the Holiday Inn takes approximately 11 minutes but there is not a well-defined path of travel in the winter. While there is an audible signal at the intersection of West Yellowstone Ave. and Canyon St., the streets are not completely plowed to allow for snowmobiles, and the sidewalks that do exist are not consistently shoveled.

**Ski Site**

Skiing would take place at the Rendezvous Ski Trails situated at the southwest corner of West Yellowstone. The trails are managed through a partnership between the United States Forest Service, the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce, and the West Yellowstone Ski Education Foundation. The Forest Service requires a Special Use Permit and collects trail fees (currently $15 per person per day or 3 days for $30).

Snowmobiles are not allowed on the trails which are about a 6-minute walk from the Holiday Inn. There are approximately 35 km of groomed trails including a biathlon range. The majority of trails are wide and gently rolling through meadows and stands of Lodge Pole Pine although more challenging climbs and descents are available. There is a short, figure 8 loop that could be used as a practice area separate from the 5 and 10 km trails.

A pisten bully groomer is housed at the entrance to the trails in a recently completed building that will also house some office space in the future. The Rendezvous Trails have been used by the Montana Regional Ski for Light for some time, so trails staff are familiar with our grooming needs and will provide grooming at no charge. There is no snowmaking available.

**Inside Space**

There is a small warming building that could house 20-30 people at a time. The building is ramped and there are two accessible bathrooms at one end of the building although additional portable toilets would be needed. The Povah Community Center (senior/teen center) building is a 1-minute walk from the ski trails and inquiries were made about the possibility of renting the building as additional warming/lunch space. The building is approximately 1,300 square feet, has an elevator as well as accessible bathrooms on both floors.

**Storage Space**

Ski storage and waxing space would be located in the recently completed garage/office building that houses the grooming equipment.

**Food Service**

Possible lunch options include returning to the Holiday Inn for lunch or using the Povah Community Center (senior/teen center).

**Ski Rentals**

Rental skis would be provided by Freeheel and Wheel, the only ski shop in west Yellowstone. Current rate for a classic ski package (skis, boots, poles) is $35 per day. The shop is very small, so it may make sense to manage ski pick up/drop off at the hotel.

**Issues/Concerns**

If the senior/teen center is not available, participants would need to return to the Holiday Inn for lunch.

**Transportation**

Participants would fly into Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport. Airlines currently serving the airport include Alaska, American, Delta, Southwest and United.

West Yellowstone is approximately 2 hours by bus. Karst Stage Provides service to West Yellowstone and Big Sky. Currently a 56-passenger charter bus from the airport to West Yellowstone is $2,206.15 plus a $5 per person airport fee for airport pick-ups. Two of the company’s charter buses are lift equipped. Karst Stage has not yet set prices for the winter 2027 season although each year their rates increase between 3-5% (sometime in the fall). Rates would be locked in when a contract is signed and a deposit paid.

As previously stated, the walking time between the Holiday Inn and Rendezvous Trails is approximately 6 minutes. The walking time between the Holiday Inn and the Gray Wolf Inn and Suites is approximately 11 minutes. The Holiday Inn has agreed to supply shuttle service between the hotels, and possibly the ski area, but can’t quote a price until closer to the event.

**Other Notes and Observations**

A site visit was completed in 2005. Since that time the number of airlines servicing the Bozeman airport has increased. Hayden Hall has increased the available meeting and conference space at the Holiday Inn and while the currently proposed overflow hotel is a bit further away, the rooms at the two hotels are comparable. The 2005 report expressed concerns about the steepness of trails. We only encountered one area requiring herringbone technique during the 2025 visit. It was suggested that portions of a couple trails not be used due to a turn at the bottom of a descent, but there still appeared to be enough appropriate terrain for the group.

**Conclusions**

While there is no snowmaking available at the Rendezvous Trails, we were advised that it is rare not to have skiable snow in January. There are of course logistical issues with using two hotels but workable solutions appear to exist and were discussed with hotel staff. Based on the information gathered, West Yellowstone is a viable option for an event in 2027.