## Snowbasin – Becker Lift

Operational November 2024

**Overview**

The Becker lift is 37 years old and will either require significant year-over-year investment to ensure safety and continued operation or replacement in the near term. Due to the age of this lift, parts availability issues, skier capacity issues and the overall skier experience a lift replacement is recommended at this time. Replacement of Becker will improve access to both the Strawberry and Demoisy lifts along with the terrain these lift service spreading visitation out across the Strawberry terrain.

Improved access to the vast terrain in Strawberry is imperative for growth at Snowbasin. As skier visits at the beginner to intermediate levels have increased overtime, terrain accommodating this specific demographic has become pivotal to our daily operation. Replacing the Becker lift with a highspeed sixpack will provide the infrastructure necessary to support accessibility to this underutilized area of the resort while expanding usage of our existing runs and lifts.

Total replacement cost is estimated at $10 million; actual costs may deviate +/- 10% from this estimate. An update to this summary will be provided in the event costs or projections change.

**Risks / Upside**

Replacing Becker will support several key long-term initiatives for the resort. An updated Becker lift will provide easier and more direct access to Strawberry. With the Strawberry terrain accounting for 1/3 of the resort’s total terrain, replacing Becker will provide an additional highspeed out-of-base lift with the opportunity to spread skiers out more efficiently while improving the overall skiing experience. The 22/23 season saw substantial season pass holder and partner pass product growth. Given this growth along with anticipated future growth, the expectation to improve the guest experience in this regard will require continued attention and consideration.

Replacing Becker will assist in growing the Snow Sports program. The terrain Becker accesses accounts for 85% of the resort’s Snow Sports teaching terrain. As the Snow Sports program continues to expand, the replacement of Becker is essential. The addition of the Ridgeline “pod” will also support this initiative and will be presented on in the near future as well.

The replacement of Becker will also trigger several earthworks projects in and around the Bear Hollow area which, by far, receives the most guest feedback requesting improvement each year. The ski run from the bottom of Middle Bowl to the base area currently consists of numerous pinch points creating overcrowding along with several safety and operational concerns. The replacement of the Becker lift will facilitate widening existing terrain in this area and the creation of new runs that will greatly improve flow on the mountain and the skiing/riding experience.

Becker’s useful life is almost up, and we need to consider safety risks to the condition of the asset. We are beginning to replace components due to structural fatigue which is an indication of reaching the machine’s designed service life. We spend an average of $12,000/yr. on labor on top of normal preventative maintenance just to address aging equipment. An extra $30,000/yr. minimum is spent on replacing chair and tower components. This needs to continue for the next 6 years to completely replace the remaining axles, bushings and saddles. Replacing Becker now will also avoid needing to replace the original haul rope. Our rope inspector has informed us that the Becker haul rope can no longer be shortened or repaired. Any more broken wires or lightning damage will require us to replace the haul rope which could cost up to $100k. All of this extra work is performed to mitigate the safety risks of operating a 37yrs old chairlift. Replacing Becker would provide more valuable time and resources for the Porcupine Lift and 1998 Doppelmayr lifts.

Overall, there is significant upside to completing this project in 2024.

**Maps / Drawings / Plans**