

Selkirk Lodge--Trail Network (Hub #3)

The Selkirk Lodge has potential to serve as a primary hub for on-site orientation and interpretive opportunities within the park trail system. Select story points accessible by trail are included within this primary hub. A general trail network orientation concept can be found in Figure 5.1.

Selkirk Lodge

The Selkirk Lodge currently serves as a center for winter trail activities. The expanded utilization of this facility during the summer season should be considered. With increased site monitoring, the existing facility could be targeted as the hub for year round trail information. Self-guided orientation media at this site should be comprehensive of the entire trail system. In addition, seasonal indoor exhibits should be considered to tell the park's unique winter recreation history.

Interactive media, such as on-line "Ranger and visitor blogs" or on-site postings should be explored to provide visitors with up-to-date information regarding weather, trail and road conditions, as well as seasonal wildlife and wildflower viewing opportunities.

Related Interpretive Themes

- The trail system of the park provides many opportunities to tune out the ordinary and tune in the extraordinary.
- Trail evolution at Mount Spokane began with foot paths used by Native Americans and has evolved through time to include equestrian, automobile, bicycle and a spectrum of winter recreation uses.
- Wildfires, and their suppression, have influenced the park's forest composition.

- The WSPRC is taking action to restore these forests to a more diverse, fire-resistant condition.
- Sub-alpine vegetation grows by the inch and dies by the foot, please stay on designated trails.

Trail-Based Story Points

A wide array of story point and related interpretive concepts exist within the park's trail system. To attempt to identify the range of trail network story points in this document would increase the scope dramatically. Therefore, story points identified within are specific to park locations where a need or lack of interpretation has been identified. The future identification and development of trail-based interpretation is encouraged—especially for outdoor learning purposes.



The Selkirk Lodge is centrally located and could be utilized as a park-wide trail orientation center.

Southeast Trail Network

For trail routes and select story points related to the southeast portion of the trail network see **Figure 5.8**.

Nordic (NOVA) Warming Hut

During the winter months the Nordic Warming Hut, also referred to as the “NOVA Hut”, provides opportunities for indoor interpretation. The development of seasonal, indoor exhibits at this location should be considered. In addition, the site is location in the vicinity of primary trail junction and effective trail orientation is needed.

Quartz Mountain Lookout

The fire lookout at Quartz Mountain is a popular hiking and overnight destination. Currently, the park offers reading materials and props to help overnight guests understand the daily routines and responsibilities of fire watchers. Additional reference information should continue to be researched and made available, including replicas of observation instruments and historic maps.

To enhance the experience of day use hikers and overnight visitors, select story point interpretation is recommended along the route

leading to the fire lookout. This could take the form of seasonal exhibits, printed or digital media.

Related Themes

- The history of fire in these forests goes back thousands of years and is part of the forest’s natural lifecycle.
- The rock beneath you is made of many minerals including quartz, which was mined from this area to serve a variety of human uses.
- The live-in “cab” located here was originally constructed in 1979 and moved here from the south summit of Mount Spokane in 2004.

Linder Ridge Road

The Linder family has played an important role in the preservation of Mount Spokane. The ridge located between the Selkirk Lodge and Quartz Mountain was historically known as White Pine Ridge. It has been renamed Linder Ridge. Further research of the Linder family history of the park is encouraged. Limited information was found at this time.



Overnight guests to the Quartz Mountain Lookout enjoy a variety of interpretive opportunities.

Ragged Ridge

Natural Area Preserve

The Ragged Ridge Natural Area Preserve (NAP) was established in 1985 as one of five in the state park system (see **Figure 5.8**). This 624-acre preserve ranges in elevation from approximately 3,200 to 4,900 feet within the southeastern corner of the park

Resource protection in the NAP is a high priority. Current management challenges include excluding off-road vehicles (ORV) uses, the stabilization of eroding soils, and the elimination of noxious weeds and trees invading meadows. In addition, the natural setting of the NAP and views of surround ridges and lakes provide additional interpretive opportunities.

Natural Forest/Preserve Gateway

Trail orientation at major trail junctions providing visitor access to designated NAP Natural Forest Areas is recommended. Pedestrian access is the only form of access permitted. Stewardship messages related to non-authorized uses should be addressed where appropriate.

A variety of options exists to entice and orient visitor to the interpretive opportunities within the Ragged Ridge NAP and surrounding Natural Forest Areas. The development of thematic, digital-based media to describe the ecological and land classification significance of the Ragged Ridge NAP is recommended. Printed media made available on site, such as self-guided brochures, should be avoided.

Priority Plant Associations

Where appropriate, the identification and interpretation of unique or priority vegetation communities should be encouraged. A variety of media can help to serve this function, including, remote interpretive signing, marked digital audio tour story points and guided outdoor learning activities.

Ragged Ridge Viewpoint

The trail plan calls for the closure of trail routes south of the existing rocky viewpoint. Signing of trail closure conditions is recommended, including information on regulated uses within the NAP.

Related Themes

- You are located in a Natural Area Preserve, responsible stewardship of this unique landscape is necessary to maintain sustainable human access.
- Mount Spokane State Park is the only Washington State Park that includes part of Idaho (approximately 65 acres).
- A large portion of the Ragged Ridge landscape was donated by Spokane County back in 1939.
- Many streams draining from these slopes never reach the Spokane River—instead they feed directly into the Spokane-Rathdrum aquifer.

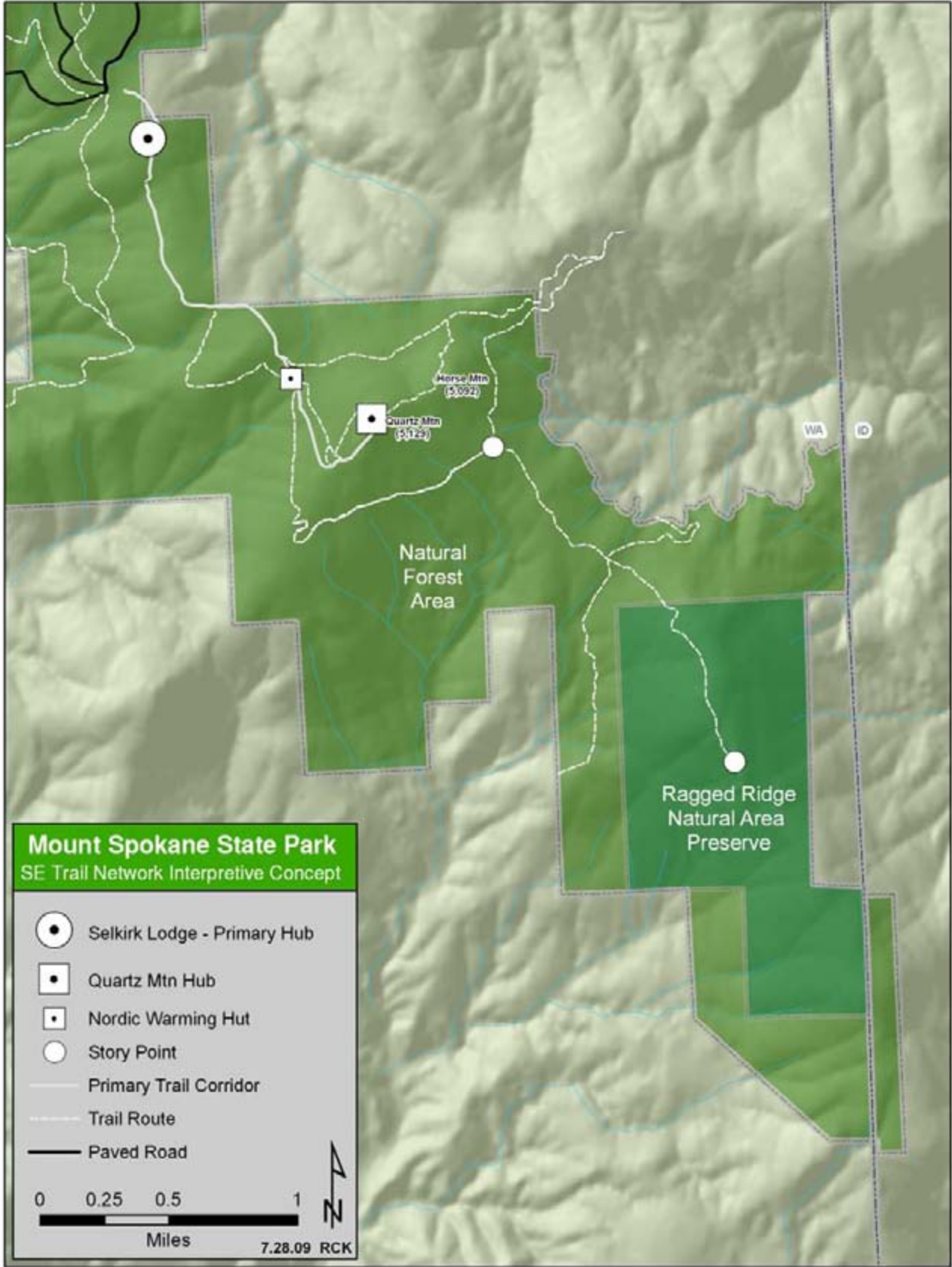


Figure 5.8 - Southeast Trail Network Interpretive Concept Map

Cook's Auto Road (Hub #4)

Cook's Auto Road, which now incorporates portions of the Day Road and Kit Carson Road, includes most of the park's northwest trail network. This hub is separated from the Trail Network Hub #3 due to the isolated, exterior parking and trail access to the park. With the exception of linkages to the Kit Caron Trailhead, it is not connected to primary circulation routes of the park.

Prior to the CCC developments in the park, the historic Cook's Auto Road was the only vehicle access to the summit of Mount Spokane. The tour to the Paradise Camp was a well-known recreational activity. Opportunities to interpret this historic route, and changes that have occurred since its primary use are encouraged (see **Figure 5.9**).

Related Themes:

- During its time of construction in 1909, the Cook's Auto Road was the highest road in the state—reaching elevations of over 5,000 feet.

- Remaining features of Cook's Road are important to the history of the park—please help us preserve them.
- No less than seven roadside springs exists along the former auto route to Paradise Camp—some of them were improved by the CCC.
- 360 acres was donated in 1929 by William Cowles Jr. (*by his request a bronze tablet was placed near a roadside spring in honor of the efforts of Frank Guilbert to establish this park*).

Selkirk Ski Club

The Selkirk Ski Club was established in 1933 and maintained a ski lodge on the northwest side of the mountain. The site of the original lodge is not on park property; however, the role of the club in influencing the early development of the park was important. At one time, the club operated a ski tow up to the northwest slope of the summit.



Example of CCC roadside improvements along Cook's Auto Road, circa 1935 (WSPRC)

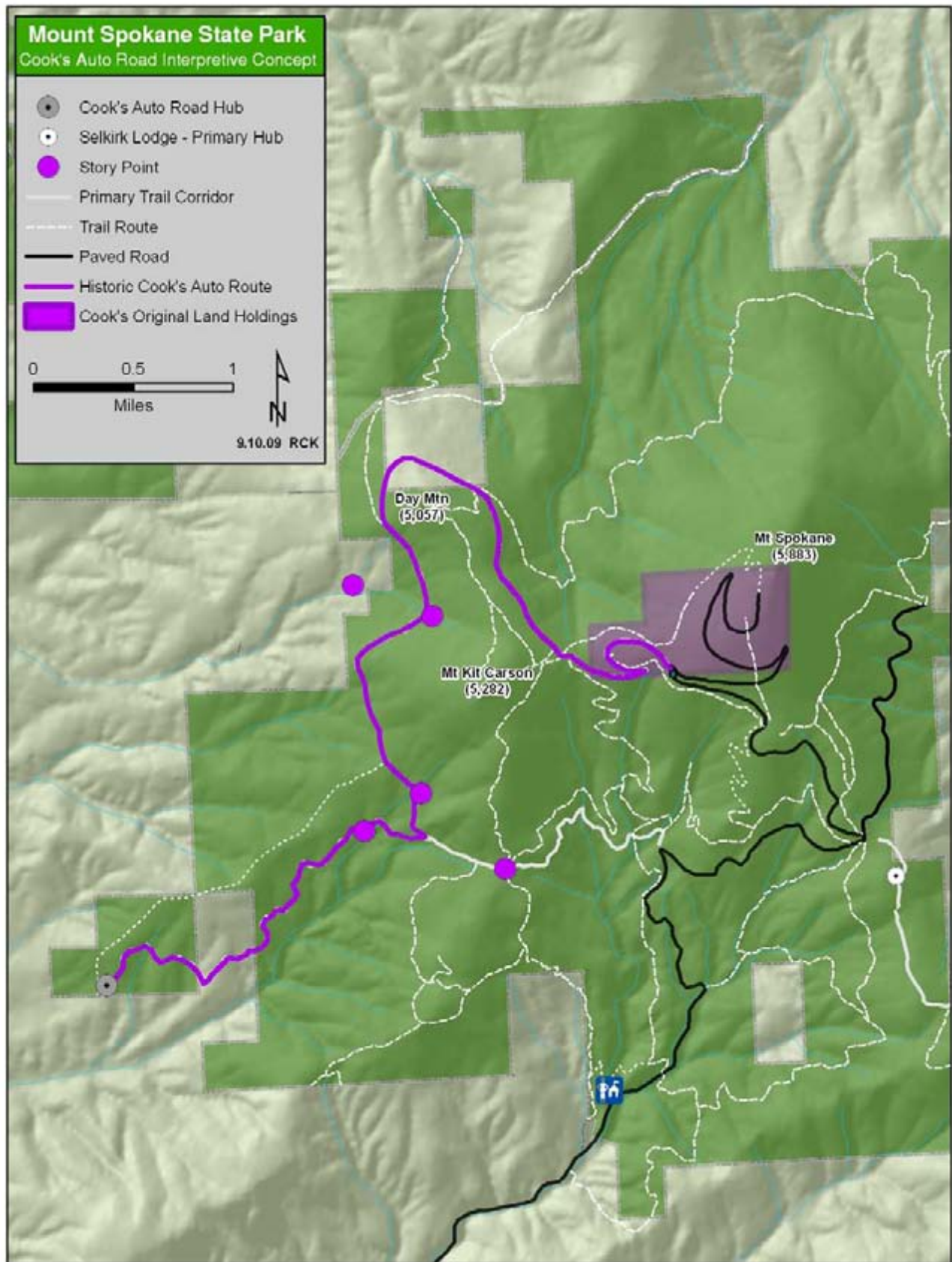


Figure 5.9 – Cook's Auto Road Interpretive Hub Concept Map

Mount Spokane Ski Lodge #2 (Hub #5)

Alpine skiing operations at Mount Spokane are managed and operated through a concessionaire agreement with Mount Spokane 2000 (MS 2000). The primary hub along the corridor is Lodge #2 located at the end of the auto route. The original east slope ski lodge, Lodge #1, is in operation and located along the corridor.

In addition to operation of the ski lodge facilities, MS2000 also provides seasonal interpretation at the Vista House during the winter months. Opportunities to partner with MS2000 in the delivery of interpretive programming should continue to be explored. For more information regarding the location of story points and ski lift routes along the corridor see **Figure 5.10**.

Ski Lodge #2 Renovations

The Ski Lodge #2 is currently in the planning phases of a substantial renovation. Concept designs for the facility reflect the design of the original ski lodge constructed near Paradise Camp. The current design calls for formal interpretive exhibits within portions of the facility, as well as orientation to a variety of trail and ski route opportunities. As detailed designs for future phases of this project are made available, it will be important to ensure updates to this interpretive plan are initiated. The overall theme concepts for the lodge should be developed in context of the park's overall interpretive strategy. The concept design also calls for year round use of the facilities, which could result in changes in summer trail use and passive day use patterns.



The first ski lodge, known as Lodge #1, constructed on the east slope of the mountain was designed by Spokane architect Ken Brooks and opened to the public in the mid 1950s (Oestreicher Collection, WSPRC).

Hub-Related Story Points

Ski Lodge #1

During the 1950s, the initial ski lodge on the east slope represented a new day in skiing at Mount Spokane. Prior to the lodge, in the late 1940s, the Mount Spokane Ski Club operated a two-chair lift to the South Overlook. Today, Chair Lift #1 runs from Lodge #1 to near the Vista House.

Chair #1

The Chair #1 lift station is located in view of the Vista House and South Overlook. Interpretation of the facility and its relation to changes in skiing on the mountain should be incorporated into on-site interpretive themes.

B-29 Crash Site

During a winter storm in November of 1948, a B-29 bomber crashed into Mount Spokane near the vicinity of Bald Knob. John Linder, who happened to be operating a State Park snow plow in the area, managed to help pull two survivors from the wreckage.



Opening day of the Chair #1 ski lift December 1, 1956 (Oestreicher Collection, WSPRC).

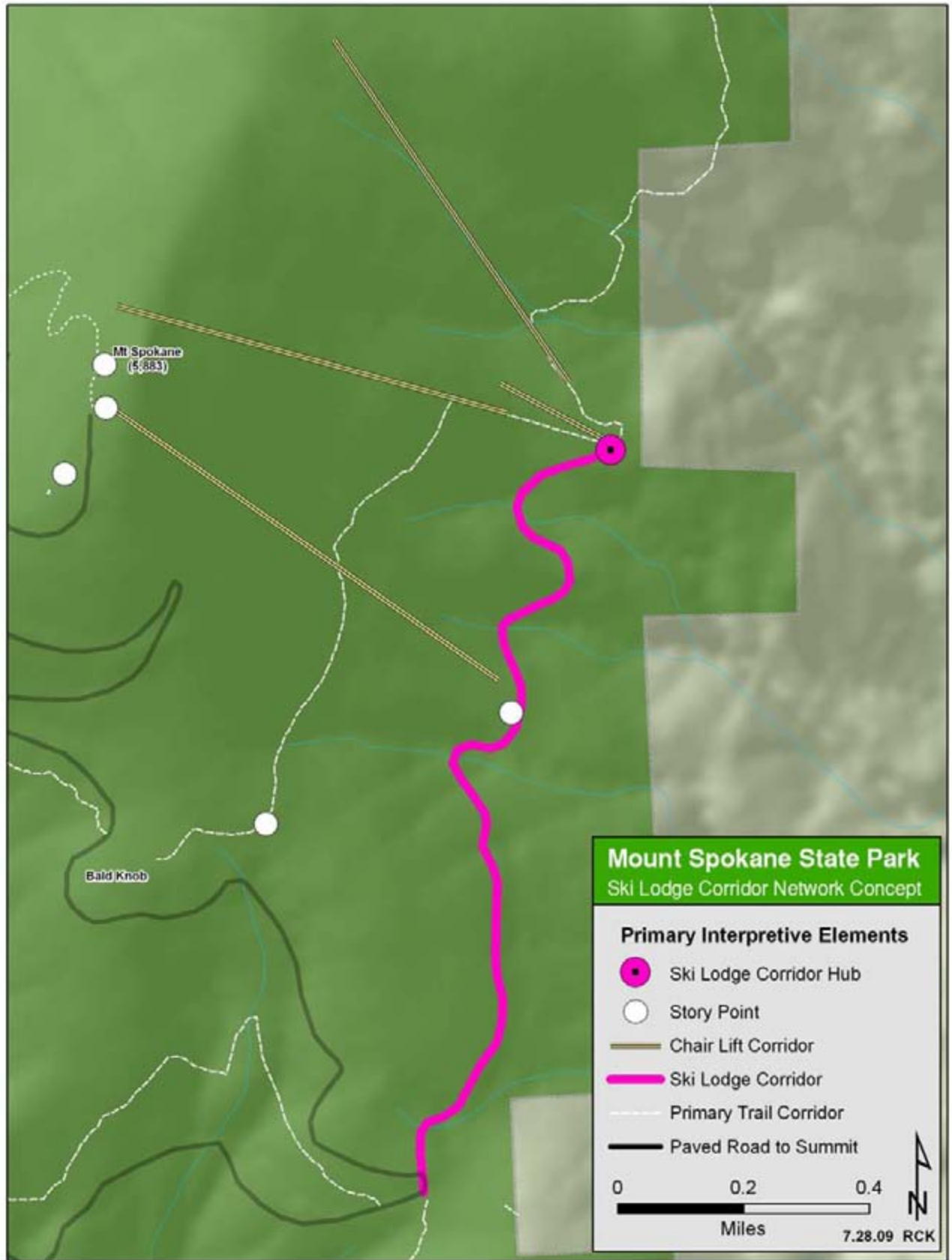


Figure 5.10 – Mount Spokane Ski Lodge Interpretive Concept Map

MS2000 Consultation

The treatment of interpretive themes related to the development of alpine skiing facilities on Mount Spokane has not been fully explored. Further consultation with MS2000 is recommended in order to identify interpretive story points unique to the operation and history of the ski concessionaire, as was as previous concessionaire operations.



Looking west at the east slope ski facilities on Mount Spokane. This photograph was taken prior to construction of Lodge #2 (WSPRC).

Section 6

Steps Towards Implementation

Interpretive recommendations within this plan are presented for consideration by Region Operations, Parks Development and Park Management staff. It is assumed that implementation of interpretive projects and program recommendations will be phased over multiple biennia (long-range). The timeline associated with individual project or program recommendations is variable and dependant on emerging and future management priorities and available funding.

Therefore, an interpretive program work plan should be established and reviewed on a biennial basis and revised as necessary to meet the needs of future park circumstances. Where appropriate, this planning document should be incorporated into future scoping of park development and maintenance programs and projects.

In general, each proposed interpretive project and related tasks will likely undergo five identifiable stages of development:

- **Media/Program research and detailed design and layout.**
- **Scoping of permit, labor and material costs and requirements.**
- **Procurement of funding and/or spending authority.**
- **Procurement of necessary permits.**
- **Fabrication/Installation, Publication, and/or Program Delivery**

Selected References

Clipping Files, Mount Spokane and Civilian Conservation Corps. Northwest Room, Spokane Public Library.

Fimbel, Robert & Tom Ernsberger (2002) Ragged Ridge Management Plan. State Parks and Recreation Commission. Olympia

Hansen, David & Daniel Meatte (2001) Draft Cultural Resource Management Plan. State Parks and Recreation Commission. Olympia

Luttrell, Charles (2000) Cultural Resources Investigations of the Stage 1 Area at Mount Spokane State Park, Spokane County, Washington. *Archaeological and Historical Services Letter Report 00-1*. Eastern Washington University.

Luttrell, Charles (2000) Cultural Resources Investigation for the Mount Spokane State Park Night Lighting Project, Spokane County, Washington. *Archaeological and Historical Services Short Report 693*. Eastern Washington University.

Minutes of the meetings of the State Parks Committee and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Committee, various dates, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Olympia.

Mount Spokane State Park Draft Trail Management Plan (2007). State Parks and Recreation Commission. Olympia

Mount Spokane State Park Management Plan (2003). State Parks and Recreation Commission. Olympia

Mount Spokane State Park Drawing Files. State Parks and Recreation Commission. Olympia

Oestreicher Photo Collection and CCC Photo Collection. Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. Olympia

Papers of W. G. Weigle. Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. Olympia

Spokane-Rathdrum Aquifer Atlas. Spokane County--State of Idaho Water Quality Assessment. Spokane

Stricker, Clyde Thomas. *Purchasing a Mountain*. Spokane: Stricker, 1975.