

Industry News

Big Sky

Big Sky announced the replacement of their Ramcharger Quad Express with North America's first eight-person chairlift, complete with heated seats and a bubble.

Nancy Greene

February 15th, 2018 was a special day, marking 50 years since Sun Peaks Resort Director of Skiing, Nancy Greene, thrilled the country with her gold medal win in the 1968 Winter Olympics in Grenoble, France.

Big White

Big White announced that they will be spending \$10 million this year on upgrades around the resort. The largest investment is the \$3.9 million construction of a new Powder Chair. The four-passenger fixed grip lift will replace Canada's oldest and most popular triple chair, which was built in 1979.

Winter Park

Winter Park Resort announced, that as part of a larger Alterra plan, they will replace the Zephyr Express chairlift, currently a high-speed quad chairlift, with a new 10-person gondola.

People

Lester Crown, the patriarch of the billionaire Crown family, bought Aspen Skiing Co. in 1985. The family also has ownership stakes in General Dynamics, Sara Lee and JPMorgan Chase & Co., the latter of which is leading the consortium of banks handling Alterra Mountain Company's roughly \$1.2 billion in debt. ■



Federal Ski Fee Retention Bill

The Ski Area Fee Retention Act of 2018 was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate earlier this month.

The bill would earmark a major portion of USFS permit fees, roughly \$22 million to \$24 million of the estimated \$37 million resorts on public lands pay in permit fees, for improving ski area permit administration, processing of ski area proposals, and addressing any backlogs in permit administration or processing.

The fees can also be used for interpretation, visitor services and support of USFS Avalanche Information/Education.

The bill could have broad impact. It would allow the USFS to transfer funds from one ski forest to another if the originating forest can't reasonably spend the amount of fees retained.

This means that all 13 ski states with public land ski areas can benefit from this legislation. The retained funds can also fund regional Winter Sports NEPA teams. After all those uses are met, the bill allows retained funds to be expended on non-ski area recreation permit administration.