



Seven Ski Areas on NFS lands use military artillery to mitigate avalanche hazards. The National Avalanche Center coordinates the Army, Forest Service, and ski area partners.

How does the program work?

The Forest Service (FS) and the Department of the Army (Army) cooperate through the Master Interagency Agreement #22 IA 11132424 381. The National Avalanche Center (NAC) manages the interagency agreement and is the point of contact between the Army, FS Program Managers, and Ski Areas.

Under this agreement, the Army loans artillery to the FS, which then assumes responsibility for overseeing the use and security of the weapons and ammunition. The Agency then authorizes each Ski Area to use and maintain the weapons. In addition to administrative oversight, FS Artillery Program managers work alongside ski area personnel during avalanche mitigation missions.



Why do we use artillery for avalanche work?

Howitzers are more accurate and reliable than any other available explosive projectile. Artillery targets are often in terrain that is too steep or consequential to put workers into safely. Howitzers can be used during storms and in limited visibility. They offer an affordable, available, and effective solution for managing avalanche hazard.

Which FS Ski Areas use Howitzers?

Seven Ski Areas currently participate in the AMP: **California:** Kirkwood Ski Resort, Mammoth Mountain Resort, and Palisades Tahoe / Alpine Meadows. **Colorado:** Telluride Ski and Golf. **Nevada:** Lee Canyon Ski Resort. **Oregon:** Mount Hood Meadows. **Utah:** Snowbird.

What is the public benefit?

The AMP protects life and property and directly affects the safety of the public, employees, and workers at these Ski Areas. These businesses generate an estimated 5 million skier visits each winter, and avalanche mitigation programs are vital to their safe operation.

How is it funded?

The AMP is entirely funded by participating Ski Areas. Collection agreements are used to collect funds that cover lease fees, ammunition, FS personnel time, training, and maintenance costs.