

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/1/2024 5:37:53 PM

First name: Brady

Last name: Webb

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Huts

Dear Louis Neff,

I am writing to oppose commercial ski huts being placed on exiting groomed snowmobile trails. Specifically Anderson Watson, Heliotrope, Damfino lakes, Grouse Road, and Mt. Baker NRA.

I do support the hut at Twin Sisters as it does not threaten the existence of snowmobile opportunities. This should be the basis of any hut approval.

I request the Whatcom County Snowmobile Club hut be removed from this proposal. It is a warming and safety shelter available for public use. As such, please approve formally outside this proposed scope of private commercial interests.

My primary objection is these huts present a conflict of interest and a significant threat to the tiny Sliver of public land available for snowmobile use. Commercial activities should be focused outside of existing public snowmobile areas. Tenures or commercial activities on public land are typically viewed by the vendor as reserved for paying clients; where the public is not welcome.

A segment of snowmobile trail use is by sled boarders and skiers that have invested in equipment and skills to venture away from commercial locations. These huts are contradictory to their mission.

There is currently little to no parking and no room for clients that do not support or pay into the snow park program.

Lastly I would highlight the ongoing significant volunteer efforts of the Whatcom County and Glacier Cruiser snowmobile club. Their contribution to keeping access roads open to ALL users can not be overstated. Clearing culverts and preventing road blowouts has saved hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars while keeping the roads usable to the public.

The collaboration between the Forest Service and these clubs has benefited the public tremendously. Please see attached photos to show a tiny glimpse of the efforts endeavored to keep the roads open.

Respectfully,

Brady Webb