

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/3/2024 1:51:27 AM
First name: WSSA Meakin
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Organization: Washington State Snowmobile Association
Title: President
Comments: To: US Forest Service
From: Washington State Snowmobile Association
Concerning: #65559 "Temporary Winter Shelters"

Washington State Snowmobile Association (WSSA), a 50-year-old organization, represents over 25,000 snowmobilers in this great State of Washington. We are considered to be the voice for them and are prepared to speak on their behalf in any situation that may impact their sport. "Keep The Gates Open" is always our goal.

We as snowmobilers want to support expanded winter recreation that creates opportunity without taking from one group to give to another. Sadly, there is a long history of winter huts and non-motorized development causing restrictions on snowmobiling.

We are not in support of these commercial huts because they will impact the snowmobilers (primary user group) of this area on Mt Baker. The proposal is just the beginning (Foothold) of what could be a total disaster for the snowmobilers. Give an inch and a mile will be taken. As a reminder, the snowmobilers are the ones that financially support the snow park, grooming, trail prep as well as other items.

Two of the proposed commercial ski huts are located on snowmobile trails and are expected to impact the parking, general public access, and quality of these areas. Snowmobilers support the snowmobile warming hut project, and suggest the ski hut project consideration be directed to other non-motorized areas for the benefit of all users. The snowmobile warming hut (Noncommercial) should not have been part of this proposal and should be listed and considered separately. This is very misleading.

Overcrowding will be the result if you follow through on this proposal. According to your (USFS) "Land and Resource Management Plan" of 1990, under Winter Recreation 1. you promised that other activities occurring in these areas should be limited or "prohibited" if they conflict with the primary activity. We the "Snowmobilers" are the "Primary Activity". Documentation attached.

Respectfully submitted.

Dean Meakin
WSSA President