



Washington Trails Association

705 Second Avenue, Suite 300, Seattle WA 98104 • 206.625.1367 • wta.org

Erin Uloth
District Ranger, Mt. Baker Ranger District
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
810 SR 20
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

District Ranger Uloth,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Rainbow and Swift Creek Crossings project scoping notice. As important points of access into the Mt. Baker Wilderness, these creeks intersect with the Swift Creek trail, which offer both day-hiking and through hiking opportunities on the Pacific Northwest Trail. Washington Trails Association community members have indicated in trip reports that these creeks can require “careful crossing” or “appear impassable at times”, so we appreciate your efforts to improve access and create safer, sustainable hiking options for the community.

WTA enhances hiking experiences in Washington state by empowering a diverse and growing community of hikers to explore, steward and protect trails and public lands. WTA is the nation’s largest state-based trail maintenance and hiking advocacy nonprofit organization, with more than 15,500 member households and an online community of more than 100,000. Since 2014, WTA volunteers conducted have conducted more than 152,000 hours of trail maintenance in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, and more than 29,000 in the Mt. Baker Ranger District alone.

WTA is delighted to support the proposed projects for this effort and appreciates the careful efforts to constrain machinery usage to the outside of the wilderness boundary. With regards to the two proposed options for crossings at Swift Creek, WTA supports the bridge option. Without a clear understanding of where the cable car will be or Forest Service engineering guidelines for this option, the bridge option will ensure an efficient project that meets the safety needs of hikers.

As this project moves forward, we encourage the Forest Service to provide information on timelines and potential funding sources in any potential proposed alternatives. We are excited to support this project and hope to stay involved as it proceeds.

Sincerely,

Andrea Imler
Advocacy Director