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First name: Austin

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

Allow me to provide some background about myself and why I do NOT support the proposed Mission Ridge expansion. I have lived all my life in the Forest Ridge Development, only minutes away from the Ridge. My family was one of the first to build a home in Forest Ridge, and have been here since the early 90s, after having moved from other places in the Wenatchee Valley. I feel so fortunate to have grown up in this area. I have fond memories of (and still enjoy now) recreating on the public lands just minutes from our home. Specifically hiking/running in the Squilchuck Park environs, as well as the Beehive Reservoir, Lake Clara, and other areas/trails in this vicinity. I also enjoy ski touring in the winter months in the Lake Clara basin. To say this area is special to me, is an understatement.

I am very concerned about the size of expansion that Mission Ridge has proposed. I feel that 275 single family homes, 621 condos/duplexes, and 110,000 square feet of commercial space, is quite ridiculous to be frank. I could understand more parking and maybe some overnight accommodations, but I'm afraid an expansion of the magnitude proposed will forever change this area, and not for the best.

My specific concerns are:

1. Increased use on public lands. Along with this expansion, and increased year round vacationers, the surrounding forest service and state lands will undoubtedly see increased use. This will diminish the quality of quiet/less crowded recreation for locals of the Wenatchee Valley. This will also increase use on trails (such as Lake Clara) and Squilchuck State Park trails, that don't currently have the facilities to handle increased traffic. This combined could contribute to increased waste, as well as trail/area degradation, along with increased pressure on native wildlife.
2. Traffic. Increased traffic along Squilchuck Road will make travel times longer for residents/backcountry recreationists heading into the area, and make trailhead parking more difficult.
3. Economic impacts. Despite this project bringing more people into the area, as well as the projected increase of funds into the Valley, I don't believe the positive economic impacts will outweigh the negative impacts on quality of life for residents of the Wenatchee area. With lodging, restaurants, Skiing, and shopping being available in one location, travelers will be more likely to spend money at the Ridge, instead of utilizing the lodging and dining already available in Wenatchee. Mission Ridge will be competing for local business with the merchants, restaurants, and hotels in Wenatchee.

In conclusion, I do not support the proposed Mission Ridge expansion. I do not buy the argument that an expansion of this magnitude is necessary to keep Mission Ridge viable for years to come. As someone who grew up skiing at the Ridge, this proposal breaks my heart. People love Mission Ridge, because this expansion is exactly what it's not.

Thank you,
Austin Boese