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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed expansion at the Mission Ridge ski area. I am in opposition to the proposal for the following reasons:

Most importantly, this proposal is nothing more than a thinly-veiled disguise to market (and subsequently churn) real estate. It has everything to do with profiting from real estate transactions, and little to do with skiing, and I resent that it is being sold to the community as a skiing "enhancement". Rather than improving the skiing experience, it will place an undue burden on the local infrastructure to accommodate and clean up after this development.

In addition to the profiteering aspect of the development, I am opposed to more people (a potentially Cashmere-sized population!) living high up Squilchuck canyon for the following reasons:

- There is only one-way access via a narrow, twisting county road. The additional panicked traffic down that road during the inevitable wildland fire will only contribute to a deadly human disaster.
- Speaking of wildland fire, thousands of vacationers (many of whom with no understanding about living in a fire-prone environment) staying at the development during the dry summer will only exacerbate the risk of human-caused fire in the area.
- The proposed road between the existing ski area parking lot and the proposed housing area has serious engineering and environmental concerns.
- A development of this magnitude will draw considerable water for human and commercial use, negatively impacting in-stream flow for fish and other species downstream.
- Proper sewage disposal will be impossible with a development of this size. The future public will be left to clean up the increased bacterial and turbidity load in Squilchuck Creek.
- Local authorities will be hard-pressed to pay for and accommodate this remotely-located community regarding fire, police, first responders, planning, inspections, and the myriad of other legally-required governmental actions and oversight. Here's but one - of many - examples: How will the county road department, with an already-stretched budget, handle the more frequent maintenance and repair requirements on Squilchuck road from the increased traffic?

I am sympathetic to the ski area's desire to improve skiing opportunities at Mission Ridge. But simply adding thousands of on-slope beds is not the answer. Accordingly, I propose the following alternatives:

- Build the additional ski runs and lifts within the proposed development area, but without the roads, housing and commercial development. This would add the needed beginner territory.
- Improve conditions within the existing ski area by thinning some of the presently overstocked timbered areas. This has two benefits: reducing wildland fire fuel loads, while improving the skier experience by opening currently un-skiable terrain to enjoyable tree skiing.
- Coordinate with the cities of Wenatchee and East Wenatchee, as well as Link Transit, to create an apres-ski experience off the mountain, with skier-oriented dining, entertainment, lodging, and transit opportunities. For

example, the Pybus Market area would be an outstanding central magnet to such a vision. Leavenworth is a successful example of that type of creativity, and I believe there is a similar opportunity for Wenatchee.

Thank you again for considering my comments. I look forward to continued participation in this decision-making process.