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Comments: My family is new to the Wenatchee Valley. We moved here from Issaquah in March 2019. Our move was intentional - we were burned out by the congestion and constant hustle of the west side. We came to Wenatchee to live a more meaningful, lower stress life. We left behind strong careers; transitioned our kids at ages where they were deeply rooted in school/extra curricular activities; and increased the distance between our friends and family. But we felt it was worth it and knew Wenatchee would provide a more fulfilling life.

The major appeal of Wenatchee is the small, tighter community and eco-tourism. Wenatchee provides us with an environment where we can live our values. Our kids have gotten into mountain biking and skiing since we moved here. And we have never seen them thrive as they have in these experiences! My kids would ski everyday, all day if they could! The fact that Mission Ridge is so convenient and affordable has made this possible.

One of things I've noticed being new to this community is the "Mission Ridge Pride". The people of this community are so proud of MR - stickers on everything, hats, t-shirts, and the sheer number of people who are skiers. Being a Washington native, I cannot say the same thing about Snoqualmie, Crystal, or Stevens Pass. The local pride, convenience, and affordability are part of the Mission Ridge charm. It is a landmark that creates a sense of community here.

The timing of our move to the area is fortuitous. We get to be part of the Mission Ridge expansion! This is very exciting! At the same time makes me nervous. I have three concerns that I hope will be addressed as the plans evolve:

1) Transportation/Infrastructure - I hope there are plans to expand and improve the safety of the highway up to the mountain. The expansion will definitely increase traffic up to the mountain. I left the west side to get away from the life-draining traffic. I would hate to see an easy 30 minute drive up to MR turn into double (or more)! Also, heavy traffic on a windy 2-lane highway creates safety concerns.

2) Parking - While MR could benefit from a bit more parking, I would hate to see that be a primary focus. Rather, the focus should be on shuttle services. The free Link service is one of the best parts of MR! It is so easy and helps with the parking constraints. Additionally, our kids can enjoy a day at MR without relying on parents to drive them. Parking at MR should come with a fee, and the revenues from parking invested in a FREE shuttle service. We have plenty of un-tapped park-n-rides in town. And this would help with the traffic concerns I mentioned.

3) Pricing - I certainly hope the county and other regulatory organizations help to ensure MR stays affordable. Especially given that a good portion of the land is owned by USFS; which residents already fund with tax dollars. I believe cost controls need to be put in place so enjoying the healthy, outdoor activities MR provides doesn't become cost prohibitive. We want to encourage this lifestyle, not put up barriers.

Thanks for listening and I look forward to seeing the "Mission Ridge Pride" grow even stronger and continue to be the heart of this community.