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First name: Erik

Last name: Peterson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to voice my opposition to the expansion of the Mission Ridge Ski Area.

I get it. Washington's population is growing on both sides of the North Cascades, and skier demand is growing year by year. Thus, there is an impetus to expand ski hill operations.

What a ski destination on public lands is and should be different from what they may be on private lands. I do not support the idea of expanding ski destinations on public lands. These destinations should remain as simple as possible for providing quality skiing opportunities for as diverse a user group as possible (unfortunately, I feel this is often not the case). Expanding resorts on public lands will only increase the cost of skiing and shift the focus from skiing to other activities...partying, development, access only by those who can afford the lift ticket price. For places like Mission Ridge, the local communities should support the economic activities that pair with skiing on the mountain. Washington has an array of ski areas on US Forest Service Lands. None of these should be expanded. If one expands, they all will at some point in the future. Keep Mission Ridge as is. If a business group owns a plot of private land that can support fancy ski resort, let them build it there.

-Thank you-