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First name: Edward

Last name: Henderson

Organization: North Cascades Conservation Council

Title: Director

Comments: RE:Glacier Peak Seismic Monitoring Stations, Draft Decision Notice

Dear Madam,

The North Cascades Conservation Council (N3C) was founded in 1957 to protect and preserve the scenic, scientific, recreational, educational and wilderness values of the North Cascades. We are strong supporters of the Wilderness Act and the protection of Congressionally designated Wilderness; The Glacier Peak Wilderness is such.

While it is prudent for the USGS to monitor Glacier Peak for any signs of volcanic activity so that fair warning can be given to downslope residents should an eruption be anticipated soon. The seismic monitoring stations proposed consist of small buildings and a solar panel to provide electricity for the monitoring equipment to record and transmit data to a home base receiver. Erection of these necessary facilities is a violation of the Wilderness Act's prohibition and Congressional approval must be sought and obtained before installation.

N3C does not object to the location of these seismic monitoring stations in the Glacier Peak Wilderness, that apparently is necessary for adequate coverage. However, the use of helicopters to ferry-in equipment is another matter.

The Wilderness Act forbids the use motorized equipment in Wilderness. The Decision Notice contemplates that personnel will hike into the seismic monitoring stations. The stations should be designed in modular fashion to allow disassemble and reassembly in backpackable size loads. The use of helicopters for material deliveries is an egregious and unnecessaviolation of the Wilderness Act should not be allowed.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,

Ed Henderson, Director