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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To all concerned land managers,

I believe the location chosen for FCH is destined to create conflict between user groups. I say this as someone who enjoys backcountry skiing as well as backcountry snowmobiling. I say this as someone who spent a winter working at Scottish Lakes High Camp, a backcountry ski hut business (now known as Alpine Lakes High Camp) and who has seen winter backcountry user conflict in various places around Washington state and Montana.

Backcountry skiers and motorized users can coexist well. However, I think that the area that FCH has chosen for their camp is particularly well suited to creating user conflict. The 9737 road and surrounding valley are heavily used by snowmobilers in the winter. They will continue to use the area and much of the same terrain that is appealing to skiers is appealing to motorized users.

Skiers and motorized users travel through terrain very differently and situations where a snowmobiler could be above a group of skiers and trigger an avalanche are bound to happen eventually. This exact situation caused a near miss previously in the winter closure zone of Highway 20.

These huts simply need to be located in an area that is inaccessible or completely unappealing to motorized users. That is absolutely possible in Washington and I would love to see such a business flourish. However I do not want to see further conflict between two user groups that I belong to and I feel strongly that this location will cause conflict.