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First name: Connor

Last name: McCune

Organization: Davis Wright Tremaine

Title: Attorney

Comments: I fully support the Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District issuing this Special Use Permit for the Alpine Huts at the DeRoux Campground.

First, these huts will improve access to skiers to some really awesome terrain in the area, who otherwise cannot access this terrain without a snowmobile in the winter, before the access road melts out. As more skiers enter into the backcountry, additional areas are needed to spread skiers out to improve safety and enjoyment of these zones. These huts promise to do exactly that.

Second, the improved access provided by these huts would also come at a low cost, with low impact on the region, particularly given the small footprint of the huts and use of existing facilities at DeRoux Campground. Installing and removing the huts will also not add significant impact, as existing roads can be used to transport the huts. Existing CXT facilities can be used to store human waste, meaning new facilities will not have to be installed, with only negligible impact will be incurred for pumping and removing the waste periodically.

Third, the proposed huts do not present any significant increase in or issues with user conflicts. This zone is currently used primarily by snowmobilers in the winter. Given the vast amount of terrain accessibly by these huts, users of these different user groups will be spread out. Access to the huts also does not propose any significant increase in user conflicts, given the small increase in users on the North Fork Teanaway Road to the huts, and limiting travel on this road to early mornings by users of the huts.

For at least the above reasons, I fully support the issuing of this Special Use Permit.

Regards,

Connor McCune