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Comments: Additional input strengthening case against efforts to allow public cross country skiing in the Gold Creek Road area.

Several years ago, we were involved in easement discussions with a local investor and representatives of Missoula Nordic Ski Club regarding a potential purchase of TNC land for skiing.

At the time, we explained some of the varied and highly compelling arguments against promoting cross country skiing in the area including:

- Incompatible and dangerous road conditions including terrible parking options and Winter logging operations
- Damage to Environment
- Numerous health, safety and legal issues
- Disturbance of Winter wildlife habitat including Threatened Species and Species of Concern
- Multiple and significant acts of poor behavior by club members including hostile interactions directed towards local residents
- Century long decision by previous timber company owners of the area not to allow any organized cross country skiing due to risks and potential for deadly and litigious consequences

In due course, the parcel being considered was not purchased and we assume this was the result of a clear recognition of the inadvisable and unsuitable conditions for developing public skiing in the area.

Certainly it is a strong statement against developing skiing in the Gold Creek area when a local, publicly minded investor completely withdraws from the proposal.