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Organization: Snoqualmie Nordic Club

Title: Director

Comments: The Snoqualmie Nordic Club has provided winter recreation activities on the paved Boat Ramp road for over a decade including XC Skiing, snowshoeing, walking/hiking for club members and the general public. The Club has received permission to machine groom the road from the USFS North Bend Ranger District for the enjoyment and benefit of the public. The State Park Winter Program has provided funds to pay for the grooming expenses which are provided by the sales of SnoPark permits.

The Club objects to the planned closure of the Boat Ramp Road during the winter season that extends from around January 1st to March 31st when snowfall meets the requirements for machine grooming (24 inches of snow cover is the rule). The Club has a Concessions Agreement with the Washington State Parks to operate winter recreation programs on the Palouse to Cascades Trail and the Lake Keechelus trailhead which is contiguous with the Boat Ramp Road and used for public access to the Lake Boat Ramp area. The closure of the Boat Ramp Road to grooming would severely impact the activities of the public seeking recreation in the winter months.

In addition to the Club, the Outdoors for All Foundation provides recreation for specially abled participants who require grooming of the Boat Ramp Road due to their disabilities, some are confined to over the snow wheelchairs for access to the scenic views available at the boat ramp area. The Outdoors for All Program has provided recreational activities on the Boat Ramp Road for over a decade and are a partner organization of the Snoqualmie Nordic Club. We are concerned that the prohibition of winter grooming will severely impact the access to recreation for the 100 plus disabled weekly users who have limited access to winter recreational activities at ADA compliant facilities in Washington State.

The Club would like to request the continued opportunity for winter recreation access to the Boat Ramp area by machine groomed trail as in prior years. Thank you for the consideration of removing the prohibition on machine grooming of the Boat Ramp Road (NF 906).