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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I do not support the Aspire Adventure Running or the Round House Touring proposed Temporary Winter Shelters.

I do support the Whatcom County Snowmobile club and Mt. Baker Guides proposed Temporary Winter Shelters.

The information about the updated proposal for the Aspire Adventure Running Temporary Winter Shelters needs to be provided on the project page. The lack of information about the updated proposed locations at the Excelsior trailhead, Artist Point, and the FS RD 3600 is outside the original proposal area and has a significantly larger impact than the original proposal. I do not believe this information is clearly provided in on the Proposal page. These changes are drastically different from the original proposal and should be treated as such.

There are several reasons I do not support the Aspire Adventure Running or the Round House Touring proposed Temporary Winter Shelters.

Anderson and Watson, the location of the proposed Round House Touring Temporary Winter Shelter is a undeveloped recreation area during the winter. There is no formal parking area and parking is just at the current snowline. This could present a hazard with overnight activities as winter storms will change the parking location drastically overnight. This could strand users who are staying overnight. There is also already a lack of parking for the existing user base, with very few pullouts or turn arounds. Busy days see users parking along the side of the road with not a ton of extra room. Another issue is wear and tear on the existing groomed trails. The existing grooming program is limited. This significant additional use has the potential to negatively impact these groomed trails without providing funding to maintain these trails.

Excelsior and Glacier Creek, the locations of the proposed Aspire Adventure Running Temporary Winter Shelters are undeveloped recreation areas during the winter. There are no formal parking areas and parking is just at the current snowline. This could present a hazard with overnight activities as winter storms will change the parking locations drastically overnight. This could strand users who are staying overnight. There is also already a lack of parking for the existing user base, with very few pullouts or turn arounds. Busy days see users parking along the side of the road with not a ton of extra room. Another issue is wear and tear on the existing groomed trails. The existing grooming program is limited. This significant additional use has the potential to negatively impact these groomed trails without providing additional funding to maintain these trails.

I support the Whatcom County Snowmobile club's proposed Temporary Winter Shelter. This is the existing location of a temporary winter shelter that is open for the recreating public's use, free of charge and is maintained by a volunteer ground. It provides a valuable location for the general recreating public to seek shelter during extreme weather as well as a location for first aid equipment such as a back board or stretcher. It is a true no-trace temporary winter shelter, being able to be completely removed during the summer months. It is not a 'draw' to any additional users, thus doesn't contribute any increased wear and tear to the groomed trail system.

Thank you for the chance to comment.

Jacob Vail