

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/9/2024 12:13:49 AM

First name: Chris

Last name: Dupenthaler

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am very interested in the proposal to add privately managed huts in the Mt Baker Forest. As an avid backcountry skier, longtime resident, and occasional snowmobiler, I see the positive aspects of this proposal - to provide access and some added safety to the alpine spaces.

A few points seem to lack clarity or be missing points.

Private/Public - First, by lumping this proposal in with publicly accessible huts run by the snowmobile clubs, we do a disservice to them and to the public. It needs to be clear that priority must be put on organizations that allow public access to their huts. There is great support in all user groups for the concept of shared space and this can be accomplished. Separating the publicly available, not for profit huts should be done in all proposals and the well-established public huts should be approved without contingency on these for-profit huts.

Cost/Access - Related, there is little indication in this proposal or from accessible information from Aspire, how they will manage access to the huts. A hut system similar to BC relatively low cost and easy reservations is working well in that well-established zone. I would be more reserved if the intent is to only sell access as part of expensive guided trip packages with less options for casual users of the area. More information on the hut management, fees, and proposed packages might clear this up or might make the difference of this being a positive or negative for the general public in the area.

Parking - Lastly, parking will be an issue at several of these sites. Extremely variable conditions, "end of road" location changes, and less experienced users will cause problems if not managed more than laid out in these documents. Consider improvement of the glacier creek and canyon creek roads to include some extra turn around space to make this feasible. Road blockage could result in substantial safety concerns for evacuation especial with limited cellular coverage in the area.