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Comments: Dear Ted Neff and colleagues,

As a longtime frequent visitor to Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, I am very skeptical about the value of this project. Three of the four proposed shelters are described as, essentially, privately-owned spaces: the public can only use them if they're paying for a (likely very pricey) guide service or in case of "extreme weather", i.e. in emergency use. I do not think that this essentially private concession is a good use of public land. As I read the description in the letter, it seems like a giveaway to these guide services!

If we're going to let these private operations build and run shelters in beautiful, desirable places on public land, let's get more in return. The shelters should offer more to the general public. For example, require that the operators make the bathrooms open to the public: managing trailhead waste is a legitimate public benefit! In addition, require that some substantial time in the shelter be made available to non-guided-client members of the public, either by keeping a certain number of beds available for public reservations or by requiring a certain number of days per winter where the public can rent out a whole shelter.

I appreciate how a more substantial shelter will make guiding easier. However, please make sure that the public gets some benefit in return for the guides' use of public land.

Thank you!