Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/17/2024 5:32:51 PM

First name: Ben

Last name: Williamson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: First off I am a supporter of exploring new ways to use our public lands. I have no objections to the temporary structures being placed on Canyon Creek road for day use Snowmobile shelter, and the temporary shelter for overnight use near the twin sisters.

The proposal of adding new user groups to Glacier Creek and Anderson Watson snow parks is problematic for me. I use both of these areas already for both snowmobiling and ski touring. Both are great day use areas with lots of options. Adding overnight users will complicate parking on roads that have parking areas that move throughout the season and have limited room. For example the recently closure on Glacier creek road in the summer had cars parked for sometime almost a mile on the shoulder of the road with cars parked in the turnaround area. Many of these vehicles were commercial guides and guests similar to who would be using the temporary structures. The grooming that happens on these roads will likely be disturbed by overnight parking with added users who do not understand the etiquette of snow parks.

The commercial aspect of these proposed structures is unfortunate. This idea at it root is based on commercial groups attempting to make profit by selling an experience of backcountry skiing in a less crowded area. These commercial groups are already responsible for making access points like Heather Meadows more crowded and contribute very little to the forest as it is not a regulated snow park. I encourage you to not add temporary structures that will be primarily used by commercial outfitters to an already active day use area. There are already nearby accommodations to both of these areas to allow for easy day use. I regularly use both of these areas for day use with ease. Overnight use will complicate the way they have operated for years and primarily benefit guiding businesses and clients paying to be shown around for a day or two a season. The cost and burden of this chance will be felt by all of the users who enjoy these areas multiple time a week during the winter and have been doing so without overnight use for years.

Like the Twin Sisters proposal, there are many other areas in our mountains that are not assigned to a user group already. I encourage those responsible for these proposed structures to look outside the box and find new areas to explore instead of encroaching on areas already in use and asking the FS to change their policy for those areas. I don't want to see conflict between snowmobilers and ski touring folk as I am part of both groups. These temporary structures at Anderson Watson and Glacier Creek will cause conflict.