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First name: Aaron
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear Forest Service Ranger for the Mt. Baker District:

These comments are directed at the proposal to permit the construction and use of temporary huts near Mt. Baker and North Twin Sister.

The land that is adjacent to the proposed huts is valuable for several reasons. It is public and therefore is meant to be used by everyone. These huts represent an opportunity to get more citizens outside experiencing their land at a time of the year that has limited opportunities for public land enjoyment. These huts are far from a maintained road so it will be quiet. There is good ski terrain that is accessible by human power in a single day from the hut. Because they are close to treeline, they also provide a good departure location for climbing on adjacent mountains.

The fact that the huts will be temporary and used only when snow is on the ground is a great idea because it reduces the impact to the land that they will have. These huts put winter recreationists in the zone that they want to be in without having to spend extra time each day making the several mile approach. They will not be in the way of those wishing to use these areas in the summer time because they will be removed at that time.

If permitted, I would like to see the Forest Service require that the owner/operator set time aside in the calendar for guided as well as non-guided clients. Maybe something like 1/3 of the time the clients can be guided and 2/3 of the time the clients will be un-guided. I would like to see a mandated fraction of the user fees going to maintaining the road for winter travel i.e. grooming, windfall clearance, brush clearance etc….I would also like to see firm rules preventing overflow visitors from camping outside the huts in snowcaves or tents. It would be good to establish these huts as emergency shelters that anyone would have access to in the event of an emergency.

Thanks for the opportunity to have my voice heard.