

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/25/2024 5:04:10 PM

First name: Adam

Last name: Gellman

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I am a resident of Bellingham, an avid mountain recreational user and a professional mountain guide. While I am in support of maintaining mountain access, I believe commercial use infrastructure goes too far in terms of the physical impacts and wilderness character of the mountains.

Working on the south side of Mt. Baker, it is terrifying and disheartening to see the level of environmental degradation that comes from the high traffic in that mountain zone. Not only is the experienced degraded for all users in that zone, recreational users and guided parties alike. The mountain goats avoid the zone, the vegetation is trampled and there is large amounts of human waste and plastic on the ground. Part of this is due to recreational parties but the permanent camps increase traffic and increase impact.

While this impact has been largely concentrated, to expand commercial infrastructure to several low human impact zones would be an oversight. Our industry has boomed in the last few years and we are still dealing with the repercussions of this. To allow this massive growth to destroy more of our precious North Cascades wilderness would be a loss for generations. I hope that you consider the need for further regulation of commercial groups in the Mt. Baker Wilderness and I am happy to discuss more as needed.

Cheers,

Adam Gellman