

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/27/2024 3:24:16 AM

First name: Andrew

Last name: Baer

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I love the restoration idea and agree it needs to happen. It's an ecologically important area and species. However, I don't think the FS has appropriately evaluated the recreational impacts. Gold Creek is incredibly popular and the increased traffic in other areas that the closure will cause will cause environmental impacts elsewhere in the valley.

I'd recommend the following:

- Provide parking at the PCT North (Kendall Katwalk) parking lot to improve access to the Commonwealth Basin for snowshoeing and backcountry skiing
- Allow winter recreationalists to continue to access F.S Road 4832-144 in the Gold Creek Valley, which is outside the project area and provides snowshoeing opportunities and backcountry skiing access
- Allow recreationalists to access the upper Gold Creek Valley via trail 1314 by including clear signage and/or temporary trail markers as necessary to maintain closure of project area
- Expand parking on Lake Mardee Road and pursue opportunities to acquire the adjacent private land, where snowshoers can access F.S road 9090 and provide additional snow play opportunities in the flat open area.
- Work with WSDOT to allow parking on the north side of I-90 at Exit 62 and add signage and trail connector for cross country skiers and snowshoers to access Cabin Creek and Mount Amabalis trail system.

The access via 4832 would be particularly beneficial while remaining low impact. Skiing is increasingly crowded at the pass and the Summit at Snoqualmie is increasingly combative about backcountry use, so the more access we have to public lands, the better.