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Comments: Demand for winter recreation has skyrocketed in recent years, but no new trailhead parking or access has been added. There is especially a lack of equivalent informal recreation sites for families with young children who enjoy Gold Creek. The "other recreational facilities" in the Snoqualmie Pass area do not have the capacity to absorb the hundreds of vehicles and winter recreationalists that currently enjoy the Gold Creek Valley during the winter months.

The proposed project needs to include more substantive plans for offsetting the significant loss of Gold Creek Valley as a winter recreation access point.

I concur with the Cascade Backcountry Alliance recommendation that the Forest Service investigate the feasibility of the following additional solutions to help address the already difficult parking issues in the Snoqualmie Pass vicinity:

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.