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Comments: Gold Creek pond is one of the busiest winter destinations in the state. It's the primary place for anyone who wants to try snowshoeing and attracts a lot of beginners every year. Without an outlet for avalanche safe, easy beginner snowshoeing those folks will crowd out other already stretched winter recreation sites. They will especially go to Hyak and Cabin Creek which are poorly set up for snowshoeing and will result in damage to cross country ski tracks. While some snowshoers respect the fragility of XC ski tracks and know to avoid them, beginners are more likely to destroy cross-country skiing grooming by walking in the tracks. One group of hikers can ruin a day of skiing for hundreds of skiers. If the plan is to close Gold Creek for an extended period of time there needs to be sufficient capacity and a recommended outlet for this snowshoe winter traffic, it can't be accepted by the existing areas without damaging the experience of others.