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Comments: I am supportive of this important and worthy project, but have significant concerns about the temporary impacts and the lack of mitigation for them. My comment therefore are focused on the Recreation Scenic Resources Report:

#### 1.3.4 2.4 Keechelus Lake Access Modifications

Please revise this section to state that intermittent winter grooming of USFS Rd. 9070 would be allowed to continue for special XC ski events.

#### 5.1.4 Gold Creek Sno-Park & 6.2 Proposed Action

This Sno Park (essentially parking on both sides of the Frontage Rd.) needs to be considered for reconstruction/improvement as part of this project. It is unsafe as it is now, with more cars parking than is safe. Traffic on the road is severely impacted, leading to enraged drivers and endangered pedestrians. As growth in use is expected, it is appropriate to design this proposed project to include an improved and safer Sno Park. If not now, when?

#### 6.2.3 Temporary Impacts

I disagree strongly with the statement at the end of page 48 that states "the presences of these other recreational facilities in the general area and within a similar driving distance from the Seattle area would reduce the intensity of the impact during construction to less than significant." Virtually all the "other rec facilities" are very heavily used and do not have the capacity to offer quality experiences to additional users.

The "temporary" impact on recreation will certainly be significant and needs to be mitigated by developing alternate parking, access points and trails for those 100-300 cars that will still come to the Gold Creek area on a winter weekend (I am less familiar with the summer trails). Failing to do this will result in illegal parking and land use that is not safe for the recreationalists or the environment. To me, it is embarrassing that the USFS hasn't already done this and included it in this proposal. This is a list of suggestions that could help as a starting point:

- a) Provide parking at the PCT North (Kendall Katwalk) parking lot to improve access to the Commonwealth Basin for snowshoeing and backcountry skiing
- b) 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
- c) 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
- d) 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.

I respectfully request that the project proposal be revised to address the significant temporary impacts to recreation with mitigation measures. The project cannot be viewed as potentially successful without this.