Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/28/2024 5:02:28 PM

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Title:

Comments: Having moved to the PNW from Colorado recently I was excited to see some conversations about new huts popping up. I have felt that the backcountry hut access is fairly limited in the cascades compared to many other areas of the US and Canada and these proposed huts would certainly help that. I would love to know what allotment of time the public will have to use these shelters. Will there be a lottery, an online booking process, or will users be required to attend these huts with the business that benefit directly?

Will any of the huts be available for unguided use or self-access by the public? If so, what portion of time/space will be allotted for public use? Are there cost estimates for users?

In my experience huts such as those proposed are only growing in popularity and can be successful both in user experience and environmental impact. However without adequate details or manpower before a project starts I worry this could quickly become an example of why huts don't work in the cascades. That would be a huge loss for the backcountry users that recreate in these mountains.

I hope that the public would be able to rent these for a nightly fee or for exchange for volunteer hours. I hope the locations of each have been evaluated to avoid avalanche terrain during storm cycles, and that these huts could be booked online with an easy cancellation button so that users can easily see when they are open and accessible. Often huts sit empty when a group cancels their reservation, without the ability to rebook huts go unused during prime weekends.

If each individual hut is managed separately is there anything stopping a guide service from taking a year or two to setup their online booking portal essentially setting them up to have a personal backcountry hut in the north cascades?