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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a resident of the North Cascades mountains living deep within the mountains on highway 2 in the winter and highway 20 in the summer. I am an avid winter recreationist, primarily backcountry skiing and climbing, and I work in the outdoor recreation industry. I have lived in Washington six years and plan to continue indefinitely.

I am opposed to this proposal. I would be in favor of huts built for general public use with a modest fee to support their upkeep. But huts operated by guiding companies requiring guided services for use will not benefit the local recreation community who mostly recreate in a self-directed non-guided way. These huts will primarily serve visitors from other regions unfamiliar with the Cascades who desire guides. This will exacerbate crowding and pollution issues by making these areas convenient tourist destinations.

Our public lands are not meant to be business venues. They are for the free and unconstrained use of self-directed people. This proposal will not enhance that use, and will detract from the experience of self-directed users by increasing crowding from guided parties. Let us please keep in mind the egalitarian purpose of our designated wilderness areas and not succumb to the deceptions of greedy businesses cynically posing as public benefactors. We should not let them extract value from our commons.

Thank you for your time and attention.