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Comments: I am writing to rebut the statement that the proposed long-term closure of Gold Creek Valley has "no significant recreational impacts." This is simply untrue. The Gold Creek Valley is one of the most popular - if not the most popular - winter recreation destination for Snowshoers, cross country skiers, and families seeking an accessible place to play in the snow. Every snowy weekend - and even during the week, this area is clogged with hundreds of cars to the point where some people wind up parking by the downhill ski area and walking over a mile to get to the trailhead. Other sno parks in the area, like Cabin Creek, are already beyond overcrowded and absolutely do not have the capacity to absorb the thousands of winter recreationalists that currently enjoy the Gold Creek Valley during the winter months. As it is, I have already driven to Cabin Creek by 8am on a weekend morning, only to find the parking lot totally full and I cannot use the sno park that I paid for. We need more accessibly places for people to recreate in the snow - not less.

I urge the Forest Service to 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.