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Comments: I support the project's three primary needs to improve instream and floodplain restoration, restore groundwater hydrology, and improve passage conditions. However, I am disappointed that there is not better mitigation for the impacts to outdoor recreation and believe further analysis and improvements are needed.

Gold Creek Pond is a unique site in which it's ADA status has helped strengthen the connection to outdoor places to a wide demographic of citizens. While the pond is not a natural site, it has attracted many to views of the higher peaks in the Snoqualmie Pass area and a better connection with the outdoors. Ultimately, this site helps citizens learn of nature's values such as the primary needs of this project and to vote accordingly. On this note, I commend the project's intent to replace long-term recreational assets for our greater public.

The shorter term impacts are negative to outdoor recreationalists especially as there is a growing supply challenge for parking and access in the greater Snoqualmie Pass area. I believe the following mitigation impacts should be considered before approving the project.

- Ensure year round cross country travel up Gold Creek and beyond. I believe the plan is written this way as only prohibits vehicles during construction but there is some uncertainty in the capacity of the legal closure language. Please ensure human powered recreational access is maintained, and signed accordingly, throughout the project.
- Expand winter parking just north of the Exit 54 Interchange and on Lake Mardee Road.
- Provide winter parking at the PCT North parking lot.
- Work with WSDOT & Washington State Parks to increase capacity for winter parking at Exit 62.