

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/30/2024 6:34:22 PM

First name: Peter

Last name: Mitchell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Maintaining access to the boat launch is important to the public, but driving illegally into the reservoir and damaging sensitive fish populations and stream habitats is not allowed and illegal activity needs to stop. The public can still access these areas for recreation, with a little extra effort to walk to these recreational opportunities on foot.

While recreational opportunities at Gold Creek Pond will be limited during the restoration project, the same type of recreational access will be available after the environmental habitat restoration has been completed.

Communicating to the public about other nearby outdoor opportunities would be beneficial. Areas such as Lake Easton State Park, Cle Elum Lake, and Lake Kachess could all possibly absorb additional recreation, as could the multiple access points to the Palouse to Cascades Trail. It would be beneficial to share these opportunities more broadly with the public as viable alternatives while this important project moves forward to address past damages to the environment.

Furthermore, science and research show that recreation can be detrimental to wildlife use in an area. In important wildlife corridors like Gold Creek, we need to ensure that human recreation is carefully managed. Millions of tax dollars have been invested to create permeability for wildlife north and south under the I-90 freeway.