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Comments: I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed habitat restoration project for Gold Creek Valley near Snoqualmie Pass.

I have been aware of the attempts to build the wildlife underpasses that are there now, in part to restore the connectivity lost with the building of I-90. I also have contributed to previous campaigns to purchase checkerboard lands in the Central Cascades to consolidate public lands and restore wildlife connectivity to the north and south of I-90. Therefore I was happy to learn of the proposed project to further improve this important crossing point.

I would like to offer the following comments on the proposed project.

- 1.) Restoration is needed to address the creek's dewatering and to restore wetland processes that fish and wildlife at Snoqualmie Pass depend upon. Partially filling the pond in the area of the I-90 gravel pit will help restore the hydrologic and natural groundwater processes.
- 2.) 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 illegal and some natural barriers such as large boulders should be placed to block any possibility of this activity continuing.
- 3.) The Gold Creek stream bed needs to be restored to ensure it provides useful habitat for bull trout and other aquatic species endemic to the area. Please place large logs and root balls strategically along the stream to add complexity to the stream and help recover habitat for fish and wildlife. This is commonly done now to provide the water flow patterns needed by native fish and to cool the water temperature and create climate resiliency.
- 4.) I consider the primary use of this area to be for wildlife connectivity, therefore we need to ensure that human recreation is carefully managed. Research has clearly shown that recreation can be detrimental to wildlife use in an area if it is too prevalent and is not controlled adequately. Please remember that millions of tax dollars have been invested in Gold Creek to create connectivity for wildlife north and south under the I-90 freeway. We must ensure that purpose is not negatively impacted by too much human recreational usage affecting the use of the wildlife in which we have invested so much.

Again, thank you for proposing this project and I hope to see that the outcome will take these comments in consideration. We all want this area restored and for our investments here to provide wildlife with the connectivity it provides under I-90.