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First name: Ava

Last name: Ferguson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Over the years, a number of organizations and agencies have invested in this high-elevation area to restore wildlife and habitat connectivity from past management activities that negatively impacted the ecosystem. Restoring large wood, with intact root wads if possible, adds complexitys to the streams that will help recover habitat for fish and wildlife and create climate-resilient refugia for bull trout. In addition, partially filling the pond will restore the hydrologic and natural groundwater processes impacted over 50 years ago when the gravel pit was used to serve the I-90 freeway. Restoration is needed immediately to address the creek's dewatering and to restore wetland processes that fish and wildlife at Snoqualmie Pass depend upon.

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 this illegal activity needs to stop. 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.

I support this project moving forward and thank the USFS for the opportunity to provide public comment.