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Comments: The Gold Creek Valley is home to the 900-foot and 1000-foot wildlife underpasses, which have improved wildlife connectivity across I-90 at this high-elevation linkage in the central Cascades. The Gold Creek Valley Restoration Project is the next logical step in repairing past ecological harm caused by a legacy of old-growth logging, gravel pits that helped develop I-90 and human alteration of the ecosystem.

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.

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