

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/30/2024 9:02:27 PM

First name: Sarah

Last name: Burrington

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I live at Snoqualmie Pass and work at Dru Bru down the road. We have been seeing recreation areas cut down in many different areas over the last few years. This causes strain on the other existing places at Sno Pass and can overwhelm the area. Some examples in recent years include Franklin Falls, Lake access at Keechelus, and now Gold Creek. Gold creek is one of the only ADA accessible hikes in the Central Cascades, and there are extremely high numbers of tourists in the area looking for family-friendly, beginner-friendly, and accessible hikes at Snoqualmie Pass. I don't have an issue with the restoration plans, just that there seems to be no plan in place to offer similar recreation areas during winter and summer in place of this closure. Living and working at Snoqualmie Pass we constantly see a huge influx of daily visitors from Seattle, and I worry this closure will continue to push visitors onto private property, more avalanche-prone terrain, and/or other nearby areas that cannot support the number of guests that visit gold creek. I wish there was more communication from the forest service to our local community about the multiple closures we are seeing. The FS already struggles to keep up with the high volume of folks in the area (see link to a recent article on the news about this very site below), and I worry this closure partnered with the lake closure will just force visitors to other areas in our community that cannot handle the load. The USFS should be considering the people aspect of this closure along with the environmental impacts.

<https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/hiker-calls-out-park-visitors-near-snoqualmie-pass-leaving-overflowing-trash-broken-glass/EKXL7DYI3JCLFGOQ5IABPBGSCI/>