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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.

Please consider:

- Restoring large wood, with intact root wads if possible, to add complexity to the stream will help recover habitat for fish and wildlife and create climate-resilient refugia for bull trout.

- 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 to address the creek's dewatering and to restore wetland processes that fish and wildlife at Snoqualmie Pass depend upon.

- Severely limit public access except by foot (no vehicles). 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. 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.