Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/30/2024 11:36:21 PM
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Organization:
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Comments: As a citizen, a biologist, and a resident of Wenatchee for 30 years, I have been pleased to see millions of tax dollars have been invested to create permeability for wildlife north and south under the I-90 freeway. The connectivity that is working needs to be enhanced and this project will do just that.

I want to offer my support of this project and thank the USFS for the opportunity for me to provide public comment. Partially filling the pond will restore the hydrologic and natural groundwater processes impacted 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. Restoring large wood, with intact root wads if possible, will add stream complexity, recover habitat for fish and wildlife, and create climate-resilient refugia for bull trout in a continually warming world. The temporary closure of recreation is a small price to pay for the added habitat values that will result. These newly created wildlife corridors that reconnect the Cascades Range in Washington is a science-based step in the right direction.