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Comments: Hello!

I believe this is an important project that will have a positive impact on the health of the area's ecosystem.

With that said, the statement that closing off this area will have "no significant recreational impacts" is either disingenuous or shows a lack of understanding about how much use this area gets.

Particularly in the winter, this area and the surrounding ones are already being maxed out. The other recreational facilities in the Snoqualmie Pass area do not have the capacity to absorb the hundreds of vehicles and winter recreationalists that currently enjoy the Gold Creek Valley during the winter months.

As someone who cross country skis from Hyak, that parking lot is full on the weekends even with the Gold Creek area being open, which results in people being turned away from being able to access Hyak (I have personally been in that situation and had to go elsewhere, which meant a change of plans involving more driving).

The cross country ski options are already quite limited and popular in the greater area and taking away the options at Gold Creek would stress those even further. This doesn't even touch on the other parking-related issues in the area for snowshoers, backcountry skiers, etc.

Please consider the following:

- \*Provide parking at the PCT North (Kendall Katwalk) parking lot to improve access to the Commonwealth Basin for snowshoeing and backcountry skiing

- \*Allow winter recreationalists to continue to access F.S Road 4832-144 in the Gold Creek Valley, which is outside the project area and provides snowshoeing opportunities and backcountry skiing access

- \*Allow recreationalists to access the upper Gold Creek Valley via trail 1314 by including clear signage and/or temporary trail markers as necessary to maintain closure of project area

- \*Expand parking on Lake Mardee Road and pursue opportunities to acquire the adjacent private land, where snowshoers can access F.S road 9090 and provide additional snow play opportunities in the flat open area.

- \*Work with WSDOT to allow parking on the north side of I-90 at Exit 62 and add signage and trail connector for cross country skiers and snowshoers to access Cabin Creek and Mount Amabalis trail system.

- \*Understanding that the Gold Creek Sno-park (F.S 4832) will still be open, even though the trail and pond and recreational area will be closed, it would be helpful for the closure map to direct users towards alternate recreation options if they show up at the location and no longer have an easily accessible recreation destination available.

Thank you for your time and consideration.