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Comments: First off, I would like to commend Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie and District Ranger Neff for having a public meeting and for presenting these proposals for public comment. For contrast there are similar proposals in Gilford Pinchot that the Special Use coordinator and administration decided to keep from the public by not making any public announcements and only privately soliciting comments from folks who commented on other proposals, which I think is disgraceful.

The 4 proposals for "huts" are very different and should be evaluated individually based on their own merits. I support the warming hut being proposed by the Whatcom Snowmobile club near Bearpaw. The Snowmobile club has a proven history of being able to run warming huts responsibly. Additionally, it does not increase impact or additional users to the area.

I am not opposed to the hut proposed by Mt Baker Guides near the Twin Sisters. It is accessed via private land and is therefore de-facto private land. It is one of the very few areas on the west side of the cascades that is within a few miles of a plowed road and is truly unused by humans in the winter. It does not affect current user groups or otherwise invite conflict.

I do not support the other two proposals, those at Anderson Watson and at Heliotrope Ridge, proposed by Roundhouse touring and Aspire Adventure Running respectively. These are in heavily used areas with existing traffic and parking concerns. The limited terrain and concentrated multi-sport use invites conflict via overcrowding and conflict. These operations, as presented and spoke to at the meeting are not well conceived and seem to be inspired by the desire to increase conflict and provide a horrible experience for all. These operators have no background running these types of operations and the forest and the other users will suffer due to their inexperience and ignorance. We know from experience with a similar operation in the Cle Elum ranger district that inexperienced hut operators are not good partners.

If these were to be permitted, the Forest Service would need to monitor on a weekly or near weekly basis. Additional grooming and parking would need to be provided by the hut operator and all of the terms of the contract would need to be monitored and enforced.

Based on lived experience with a similar operation in the Cle Elum Ranger district, consistent oversight is needed in order to ensure good behavior. The operation in the Teanaway has been poorly managed by the Forest Service and the business owner. Based on this experience one should expect squalid conditions, fire hazards, rodent infestations, hut operator driving wheeled vehicles on snowmobile roads, hut operator failing to register (or at least display snowmobile tags), human waste near huts, litter etc. Additionally, terms of the permit such as time of operation, guest ingress/egress locations, and countless other items in the permit are not being monitored or enforced. Some of these issues have improved after more oversight by the Forest Service.