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Comments: While I strongly support restoring riparian and wetland habitat, I am concerned about recreational access during the very long-term closure of the Gold Creek Valley. The Gold Creek Valley is heavily used and the rest of Snoqualmie Pass does not have the capacity to take on the hundreds of recreators that use GCV.

I would like the Forest Service (both BSNF and OWNF) to investigate the feasibility of additional recreational solutions:

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.

Thanks,

Jim