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First name: Alex

Last name: Miller

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comment on

RE: Temporary Winter Shelters #65559

Dear District Ranger Neff,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Temporary Warming Shelters Proposal in the Mt. Baker Ranger District.

I am in support of temporary, recreational use opportunities on our forest as a concept, but based on the project Scoping Letter and project webpage, there is not enough information available to make an informed decision about the proposed huts. This is most unclear and worrisome for the 3 commercial company-run huts.

It is stated that the purpose of this project is to provide temporary winter shelters for the recreating public (both commercially guided and unguided).

My main concern is the public access to these shelters. Will any of the huts be available for unguided use or self-access by the public? If so, what portion of time/space will be allotted for public use? Are there cost estimates for users?

For the hut operators, What is their agreement and responsibility beyond construction and removal of the huts and waste management? What is the time period they are being granted to operate these shelters? How will this be enforced? Does this set any type of precedent for other temporary shelters or guide operations?

I am most concerned about the proposed Twin Sisters Hut. Can we require a fully removable option for this hut like the others? It is stated that "The foundation would remain in place." In addition, there are not enough details around the access. The letter state "The site would be accessed via neighboring private property." What does this mean? How will this be enforced? What if the private party revokes access privileges?

I am in support of looking at viable winter recreation access with temporary shelters on our public lands. I urge you to look at other winter recreation huts that are run and supported by non-profits, such as the Mount Tahoma Trails Association. These enable more equitable access for all users, and will operate with different interests and principles other than commercial guides and outfitters that will profit from these huts.

Thank you,

A. Miller