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Comments: My comments are mostly directed at winter recreation during construction time. The potential time of 10 years warrants some thought for those affected.

I support this project.

I appreciate the attention to weed details.

I think in the end it will be a big plus to Snoqualmie Pass in general.

It will provide numerous research opportunities.

That said, I think the EA shrugs its shoulder at recreation. Do we already forget the masses during COVID? The gridlock for snow play? I-90 entrance ramp double parked to play on the sand stockpile?

This is an opportunity to manage recreation a bit better by acknowledging the future.

I think the Washington State Parks Sno-Park Program should have been on the consulted list. For both winter reasons and summer spillover onto the Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail and Lake Easton State Park.

Currently the winter use vehicle counts on page 32 in the Recreation and Scenic Report are a bit low and while numbers are hard to come by, we have become a 24 hour recreation destination along with hybrid work schedules allowing more midweek use. Also, Gold Creek Pond access provides significant revenue for both the winter recreation and USFS Forest Pass programs. (page 24 of Recreation report mentions USFS Forest Pass revenue but no acknowledgment of revenue for the Non-Motorized winter program). The closure of the Pond will impact what each program can do due to significant revenue loss for up to 10 years during construction. This is a long time.

Revenue loss mitigation should be required. Incorporate into the Pond construction budget Winter Recreation Program infrastructure for aesthetic and durable seasonal winter recreation signs. Including wayfinding and parking instructions, including posts, signs and a way to make installation easy.

The access gate mentioned with some kind of pass reading capabilities to allow entry is great! Please make sure this can work with winter recreation.

How about a temporary bridge effort to shore up Kendall Peaks Lakes road / trail access (old road 9090) - allowing a popular destination to remain open during Pond construction?

While there is very limited to no availability for temporary Sno-Parks, there seemed to be no attempt to find something. Of course there is only one Gold Creek Pond.

When it is time for construction, please use all channels available to get the word out about the Pond closure.