

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/2/2024 2:25:31 PM

First name: John

Last name: Crouch

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose the closure of Gold Creek Pond. As a full time resident of Snoqualmie Pass I see first hand, almost daily the amount of people that come here to recreate. While there are a lot of places to explore this is one of the most family friendly and ADA accessible sites. We also don't have the capacity to absorb the amount of visitors that Gold Creek Pond hosts. There are already not enough places for people to snow play or go to in the winter. We have cars that block the road to our house and emergency vehicles can't get in. People that come into our private neighborhood to take pictures of themselves in the snow/mountains.

If there is no way around this closure, which I think there is then here are a few things I'd like you to consider. Cascade Backcountry Alliance put together some great ideas.

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.