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First name: Joseph

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I OPPOSE!

I oppose the Forest Service "FS" - Temporary Winter Shelters #65559 proposal to provide winter shelters for the recreating public, both commercially guided and unguided. The four proposed shelter locations are Heliotrope Ridge Trailhead, Twin Sisters Range, Anderson-Watson Lakes Trailhead, and FS Road 3160. The Twin Sisters Range location does not allow snowmobiling so my comments do not apply to that location. My comments are specific to Heliotrope Ridge Trailhead, Anderson-Watson Lakes Trailhead, and FS Road 3160.

These 3 locations are very primitive locations with very limited parking. Typically, there is barely enough parking for the normal amount of snowmobile activity at these locations, let alone any additional vehicle traffic that would be generated from commercial huts. I have been an avid snowmobiler in these specific locations for the past 25 years. Myself and so many snowmobilers, families and friends use these areas every winter and we cannot afford to lose our access and use of them. Adding these huts and the commercial activities to the areas would have vast negative impacts for parking and also personal safety. Over the years I have witnessed many other private individuals utilizing these same areas for snowshoeing, cross country skiing, sledding and other winter activities, yet this is on a private use level, not a commercial level with business and large amounts of people and cars. When there is a natural private use level of activity at these locations it is balanced, safe and healthy for everyone. If these huts are added and commercial use exists, this will create an unbalanced and unhealthy environment for access, parking, use of the locations and overall public safety.

Heliotrope Ridge Trailhead, Anderson-Watson Lakes Trailhead, and FS Road 3160 are not the right locations for these proposed huts and commercial activity. Adding these proposed huts and the commercial activity to areas like Twin Sisters Range is appropriate. Perhaps the FS should look at adding these huts to already accessible areas like Baker Ski Resort, the end of HWY 20 where it is closed at the end of the season, Stevens Pass, Blewett Pass and Snoqualmie Pass where there is more infrastructure and parking options for the impacts this will have.

Thank you for your time. Joseph