

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/2/2024 5:07:29 PM

First name: Kris

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern;

I oppose part of project 65559 to place temporary winter shelters for commercial use within designated motorized zones in the mount Baker Snoqualmie forest district. In Particular, I strongly oppose the requests of Aspire Adventure Running and Round House touring to place shelters at Heliotrope Ridge and Anderson-Whatson Trailheads.

I frequent the snow park on Glacier Creek Road that accesses Heliotrope ridge. This road has just reopened with a 'temporary' reroute around a washout. The rest of the road is also in very poor condition. I have seen many well equipped and prepared snowmobile trucks have issues on sections of the road due to conditions changing within a single day. I have also seen many non-motorized users try and drive as close to the trailhead as possible only to get stuck or slide off the road causing hazards to the motorized users, blocking the road for the groomer, and making for a dangerous rescue for a tow truck. There are very few large parking areas on this road and it is often a struggle to accommodate the number of motorized users accessing this area. The snowline on this road changes frequently. It can drop (or climb) 2,000 feet overnight. I can only imagine the challenging scenarios caused when commercial customers abandon their vehicles for several days and return to find them buried in several feet of snow with miles of slick, poorly maintained road below them.

I do not oppose the proposal by Baker Mountain Guides for a shelter near the Twin Sisters. This is a difficult to access area and does not present any potential conflict with motorized users. I think this is the type of area that should be sought out by those wanting to establish commercial use huts and could be a great pilot project for this type of development.

I strongly support the addition of the warming and emergency shelter proposed by the Whatcom County Snowmobile Club on FS road 3160. The other huts like it are a great benefit to the snow parks and this one would add a margin of safety for the Bearpaw area.

Thank you for your consideration.