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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

For the following reasons, please deny any commercial use permitting at the proposed Anderson/Watson site. For background information, I have winter recreated in this area for the past 30 years, averaging 10 visits per year. In the 1990's, a typical weekend usage would see on average 3 vehicle parties per day. Currently, that number increased to as many as 40 per day.

1. Approving this plan would provide an unjust private business usage of public land for privileged elites who can afford the service.

2. Limited Parking: Public usage of this area is growing exponentially. Parking to access this area is snow level dependent and extremely limited. Demand for parking far exceeds availability. On a typical winter weekend, vehicles must park in any marginal, undesignated space available, often resulting in hazardous partial obstruction of the single lane road.

3. Limited Space: Usable recreational space on National Forest land in the proposed area is limited and often exceeds the carrying capacity for current demand. Because space is limited, I regularly witness illegal use of adjacent wilderness designated land.

4. Pollution: Litter, vehicle fluids and exhaust particulates, as well as noise pollution have also increase exponentially with growth in usage. It's common to see garbage, antifreeze, exhausts oils and carbon on the surface of the snow, all of which make their way into the aquafer. This is the result of day use.

5. Habitat Destruction: In years past, I frequently witnessed a variety of overwintering wildlife, including Blue Grouse, Pine Martens, Bobcats, Cougars and various song birds. Not claiming causation, but with recent growth in recreational usage rates, I no longer see these animals.

Summary: Designated public winter recreation areas are needed and desirable. I am asking that you carefully characterize the current usage model and forecasted public usage growth rates. For the reasons listed above, I would strongly recommend the DENIAL of this application. Permitting private business enterprises at locations where current public usage exceeds the area's functional and ecological carrying capacity provides no value to the public. This location is small, limited and overused. Public usage is growing exponentially, along with its unintended consequences. Today's and tomorrow's issues will be magnified by permitting this business. Please deny this permit application.

Thank you,
Greg Newberry