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First name: Yue

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed Gold Creek Valley Restoration Project, particularly with regard to its potential impact on Gold Creek Pond. As an important habitat for various migratory and resident bird species, including Canada geese, mallards, and great blue herons, this area plays a vital role in the ecosystem. The seasonal water release from Keechelus Lake already puts stress on local wildlife, and further alterations could lead to the loss of critical habitat for these birds, as well as other wildlife dependent on the pond and surrounding wetlands.

Furthermore, Gold Creek Pond is the nearest alpine lake accessible to the Seattle metropolitan area. While the Cascades are home to many alpine lakes, Gold Creek Pond stands out due to its ease of access for people of all ages and abilities, offering a rare opportunity for the public to experience the natural beauty of the mountains without the need for strenuous hiking. The loss of this resource would limit access to nature for many people.

I urge the US Forest Service to reconsider the aspects of this project that would lead to the degradation of Gold Creek Pond. It is crucial to prioritize the protection of public land and its natural resources over private interests such as commercial fishery operations. The preservation of this unique area serves the public interest and supports biodiversity, ensuring future generations can continue to enjoy and benefit from this remarkable environment.

Thank you for considering these concerns as part of the decision-making process.

Sincerely,

Yue Gu