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First name: Susie

Last name: Song

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Objection to the Gold Creek Valley Restoration Project*

I am writing to formally object to the proposed actions outlined in the Gold Creek Valley Restoration Project. While I understand the intentions behind the project, I have significant concerns regarding its potential impact on the local community and the environment.

****1. Impact on Accessible Recreation for Residents and Families:****

Gold Creek Valley is a cherished recreational area, especially for residents, seniors, and families with young children. The accessibility of this area makes it an ideal spot for outdoor activities, offering an easy and welcoming environment for those who might find more remote areas challenging to reach. Closing off sections of this area for extended periods, as proposed, would severely limit opportunities for outdoor recreation in a place that is particularly friendly and safe for these groups. The modifications to Keechelus Lake access, such as closing the boat launch and restricting vehicle access, would further diminish the area's usability.

****2. Preservation of Keechelus Lake and Gold Creek Pond:****

The plan to alter or eliminate portions of Gold Creek Pond raises serious concerns. Gold Creek Pond is not only a recreational gem but also a part of the local ecosystem that has become integral to the community. The proposed filling of the pond, under the premise of restoring wetlands, seems counterproductive, particularly when the pond has become a naturalized feature of the landscape. Rather than eliminating this body of water, efforts should be made to enhance and protect it alongside Keechelus Lake. Removing the pond could lead to unforeseen consequences that may not align with the goals of ecosystem restoration.

****3. Lack of Conclusive Evidence Supporting Pond Removal:****

The environmental assessment provided does not offer conclusive evidence that removing Gold Creek Pond will significantly benefit the bull trout population or the broader ecosystem. The pond has been part of the landscape for years, and its sudden removal could disrupt more than it restores. Without robust and clear evidence supporting this action, it seems premature to proceed with such a drastic measure, especially considering the potential negative impact on local wildlife, recreation, and the environment.

In conclusion, while I appreciate the efforts to improve and protect the natural environment in Gold Creek Valley, I believe the current plan does not sufficiently consider the needs of the local community and lacks strong evidence that the proposed actions will achieve the desired ecological outcomes. I urge you to reconsider the aspects of the project that involve altering Gold Creek Pond and to explore alternative approaches that would preserve the accessibility and environmental integrity of this cherished area.

Thank you for considering my concerns.