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Title: Board Member

Comments: Attn Gold Creek Valley Restoration Project Objection Reviewing Office

EA Project 57415

Acting Forest Supervisor Tara Umphries

The Central Cascades Recreation Association objects to the Environmental Assessment and FONSI for this Project and we believe that a project of this magnitude must follow Federal Law by providing a complete Environmental Review of the Project, specifically elements (2) Gold Creek Pond Restoration, and (3) Heli's Pond Restoration. We do not have objections to elements (1) Gold Creek Instream Channel Restoration, (4) Keechelus Lake Access Modification, (5) Cross-Country Travel Closure.

The EA does not cover all impacts of the projects in question with the stated plan of 60% design for Gold Creek Pond and 30% Design for Heli's Pond leaving significant questions and concerns not addressed. The USFS and it's partners must provide a full 100% design plan with all the impacts as well as options to mitigate impacts for the public use of Gold Creek Valley, for the Homeowners in the Valley, and for the Community of Snoqualmie Pass.

We stated our concerns in our comment letter about the source of the fill materials and how the impact of mining the materials would be managed, how the materials will be transported to the site, how air quality, water quality, and noise will be monitored and their impacts on Wildlife and the public will be managed.

We are concerned about the impacts of the CO2 generated by this project due to the trucking of all the gravel fill material to the ponds from a distant location that was not specified in the EA.

We stated our concerns about how Wildland fire and Structural Fire Fighting will be impacted by the project and these concerns are not addressed in the EA.

Since the comment period ended we are aware of historic evidence that shows dewatering of Gold Creek upstream of Heli's Pond before the ponds were created. The assertion that the Pond(s) are the reason for the dewatering of the Creek is questionable and should not be used as a justification for the filling of the ponds. With continuing climate change that is noted in the EA the justification for these projects is questionable. Spending millions of dollars to alter a stable wetlands that has had over 50 years to recover from the gravel extraction seems like a poor choice when the USFS has limited funds to address significant wildfire hazards on the surrounding forests that are over stocked after commercial clear-cutting. Catastrophic Fires are a significant concern for the residents, businesses, and the public users of the Gold Creek Valley and Snoqualmie Pass region.

For these reasons and others that have been identified in submitted comments we object to the FONSI for this project. We believe that the Federal Courts would agree that the Project must have a complete NEPA study performed so that all the impacts are considered before these massive projects are approved.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Timothy Becker

Central Cascades Recreation Association