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Comments: I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East - Public Safety/Wildlife Closure Area #349472. In general, closure of areas adjacent to the wildlife crossings is appropriate to encourage wildlife to use these corridors. That said, the proposal suggests there is no impact on recreation and that is just not true. While the plan states that the Cabin Creek trails can still be used in the winter there is not enough clarity in the proposed plan and in places it is contradictory.

Specifically, the map provided is not at a scale with any clarity at Cabin Creek. I have heard there is a second map that draws a line very close to the existing xc ski trails. That narrow of an allowed area does not provide room for any future modification of the existing trails. Ideally a larger box should be drawn on the map to leave room for future trail adjustment (with approval of the landowner of course). Also, drawing the boundary based only on the groomed trail does not recognize that many traditional cross-country skiers and snowshoers go off the groomed route to explore side roads on Amabalis Mountain, and possibly some lower side roads as well. This is another reason for a somewhat larger box beings used to define the area. In the scheme of the entire wildlife corridor the mile or two of area at Cabin Creek in tiny and should not create an impediment to wildlife travel, except perhaps on a few busy winter weekends.

It is my hope that a public meeting of representatives of various recreation groups could be convened to that Forest Service staff can be better informed of details that need clarification so an updated plan can be a win-win.

As a volunteer wilderness ranger at Mt Rainier National Park, it is clear to me that wildlife and humans can co-exist outdoors. The black bears and other animals in the backcountry at Mt. Rainier are very aware of humans and do not view them as a threat. Often, humans must wait for wildlife to move off the trail. Recreation users are educated on how to behave near wildlife when they procure their backpacking permit. Perhaps some signage near the parking lot and trailhead at Cabin Creek can help educate the public there as well.