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Submitted on behalf of Wenatchee Outdoors, a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring, guiding, and connecting the North Central Washington community through responsible recreation and conservation. Wenatchee Outdoors supports recreation access that balances community benefit with long-term environmental health and public safety. The current Mission Ridge expansion proposal raises significant concerns in these areas.

Traffic studies indicate up to 10,000 additional vehicles per day on Squilchuck and Mission Ridge Roads—levels that fall below Chelan County's minimum service standards, with no mitigation proposed. The project also lacks compliant secondary access, a critical safety requirement in a high wildfire-risk area.

The expansion area overlaps with important elk migration corridors and diverse plant and wildlife habitats that would be fragmented or lost. Additionally, WDFW has confirmed that an expanded, year-round resort is not an allowable use under the USFWS contract that funded its land purchase, yet this land remains included in the plan.

The proposal depends on a Master Planned Resort overlay to permit urban-scale density outside the urban growth boundary. However, it fails to meet essential MPR criteria—it is not primarily a destination resort, is not self-contained, lacks affordable employee housing, and does not preserve the rural character or natural resources of the area.

We respectfully urge the County to deny the current proposal until these safety, environmental, and legal concerns are fully addressed. Thoughtful, sustainable planning should protect both the community and the wild places that define our region.