

DATE

Mike Kaputa, Director
Chelan County Department of Natural Resources
SEPA Responsible Official
missionridgeeis@outlook.com
411 Washington St. Suite 201
Wenatchee, WA, 98801

RE: Mission Ridge Master Planned Resort Expansion
Draft Environmental Impact Statement Concerns

Dear Mr. Kaputa,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide input about the DEIS about the proposed Tamarack Development that is adjacent to Mission Ridge. I am a 25 year resident of the Squilchuck drainage and have been skiing at Mission Ridge since 1981 when I was nine. I share this to indicate a vested interested in this proposal and as someone who will be directly impacted if it comes to pass. I believe there are significant concerns about the size and impact of the proposed development.

Wildfire: The Squilchuck Valley is primed to turn into a Labor Mountain Fire. It is ripe with fuel and ready to ignite. 85% of wildfires are human caused. The addition of 7,812 beds is a catastrophe ready in the making. Adding 7,812 beds to the Greater Wenatchee Valley (35,519) is a 22% increase in population. It is scary to think of the increased potential for wildfire ignitions

Secondary access is not an alternative; it is a code requirement. Chelan County should not bend its rules on secondary access to benefit a developer at the jeopardy of the safety of residents and visitors of the development he wants to build.

Traffic: As a resident, I have already experienced an uptick of traffic. Some of this I can appreciate due to the amazing trails that have been developed and improved at Squilchuck State Park. I can appreciate this because it is a positive addition to the enjoyment of our public lands and the purpose of public lands.

I also can appreciate the added traffic due to the dry snow that Mission Ridge enjoys and I can tolerate waiting to get out of my driveway to go skiing on the weekend. This is what public lands are designed for: public use.

I struggle to tolerate the anticipated increase of traffic for a private development that will endanger and negatively affect the environment and human lifestyle.

Water: Under current conditions, water rights are cut periodically throughout the summer due to the volume of streamflow and reservoir volume not being sufficient. New withdrawals from the headwaters of the Squilchuck drainage will negatively affect streamflow quantity and the ability of senior water rights holders to fulfill their rights.

Light Pollution: Honestly, I drive home during the winter nights and when I see the night skiing lights on, I get a little shot of joy out of that. These lights and associated light pollution are temporary and a fraction of the proposed impact from the Tamarack Development.

Wildlife and Environment: The ecosystem of the Squilchuck Valley and Stemilt basin will be significantly impacted by the proposed Tamarack Development. There are current migration paths that crisscross throughout the areas. These paths will be disrupted by the development and increase pollution, traffic and waste that 7,000+ beds will produce. There are biologically significant specimens of flora in the area that will also be negatively impacted by the development.

I love Mission Ridge. I learned to ski and ski race at Mission Ridge. I learned a lot about self sufficiency and accountability at Mission Ridge because of the home-town, everyone knows and has eyes on you feel; I was proposed to at the top of Mission Ridge and I raised my kids there giving them the same latitude and autonomy that was afforded me; It has been a place to meet friends, make friends and choke on the best powder in the PNW; not to mention the best early morning corduroy I've ever skied.

I love the Squilchuck Valley. We built a life up the Squilchuck for the rural lifestyle; a slower pace; a chance to live closer to the land; have space to move around; appreciate and steward the land and wildlife.

This lifestyle, both at Mission Ridge and up the Squilchuck will be decimated by the proposed Tamarack Development.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sara Rolfs
5898 Squilchuck Rd
Wenatchee WA 98801
salarolfs@nwi.net