

From: [Chester](#)
To: [RJ Lott](#)
Subject: Fwd: Mission Ridge Expansion Proposal
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:26:29 PM

External Email Warning! This email originated from outside of Chelan County.

Subject: Mission Ridge Expansion Proposal
Date: Tue, 10 Mar 2020 13:15:03 -0700
From: Chester <northfork@nwi.net>
To: rj.lott@co.chelan.wa.us>

Comments on Mission Ridge Expansion Proposal:

I support the Mission Ridge Proposal in concept, with several specific remarks described below. The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Draft EA substantially justifies the project in its Purpose and Need section, and will not be duplicated here. However, the USFS Purpose and Need narrative supports the project in concept only, and does not refer to the specific scale of the final village build-out described in the Mission Ridge Resort Development Application sent to Chelan County (the project narrative). The 900-plus accommodation units is a large development, approaching the population (pillow count) of a small town. As a matter of comparison, the 1980s Constellation Ridge Resort proposal called for significantly less housing units, although greater ski terrain. It is interesting to note that the Constellation EIS mentioned the proponent's desire to utilize PUD water for their domestic water needs. Given the scale of the present Mission Ridge proposal, the use of PUD water would alleviate concerns over stressing the water capacity from the use of wells drilled within the boundary of the Squilchuck watershed. This watershed is already taxed, and it would seem risky to jeopardize it with a major water withdrawal for the proposed village. I assume water districts in the Squilchuck will strongly oppose such withdrawal. PUD water offers a guaranteed supply. Assuming the project will have the positive economic impact for the county that are projected, PUD involvement could be justified. Further, the scale of the resort (# of overnight units) should be examined closely by Chelan County; Is the 900-plus capacity the minimum needed for financial viability, or would a more modest total create a successful project with less impact on Squilchuck Road traffic, and soften other environmental issues? Other aspects of the village--beginner terrain, snow-play, additional parking, nordic trails, lift access, etc.--are vital and will doubtless further support the viability of Mission Ridge.

Respectfully,

Chester Marler--retired administrative staff, Stevens Pass ski Resort

Leavenworth, WA

From: [Gustav Bekker](#)
To: [RJ Lott](#); [Kevin Overbay](#); [Bob Bugert](#); [Doug England](#); [Mike Kaputa](#)
Subject: Mission Ridge Expansion project
Date: Friday, March 27, 2020 1:11:11 PM
Attachments: [El Sendero_WWA letter to Chelan County 2020-03-27.pdf](#)

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Dear Mr. Lott,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these public comments on the Mission Ridge Expansion Project in Chelan County, Washington.

Comment letter attached.

Gus Bekker

President

El Sendero Backcountry Ski and Snowshoe Club

PO Box 5622

Wenatchee, WA 98807

Hilary Eisen

Policy Director

Winter Wildlands Alliance

PO Box 631

Bozeman, MT 59771

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From: [Ronald](#)
To: [RJ Lott](#)
Subject: Mission Ridge, MPR 2018-128
Date: Monday, March 16, 2020 12:24:35 PM
Attachments: [Mission Ridge Development - 2020.docx](#)

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Attached are our comments about the proposed Mission Ridge expansion.

Thanks,
Ronald Balzer
509-886-3562

From: [Erin Andrade](#)
To: [RJ Lott](#)
Subject: MR Expansion
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2020 6:27:56 PM
Attachments: [Erin Andrade MR Expansion Comments.docx](#)

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RJ Lott,

I reviewed the El Sendero meeting summary, detailing some of the greatest concerns noted with the current proposed project.

I included, in red in the attached document, the things I most agree with, namely:

- *The concern of creating an overcrowded recreation area*
- *The significant negative impact on traffic*
 - o *Specifically, although there is more parking; there is not a new road built to accommodate the extra vehicles that would be getting to the new facilities*
 - o *The housing development is too large for the current infrastructure*
 - o *The impact on the local residents and users will be significant, creating a negative experience, similar to that at Stevens Pass or Snoqualmie Pass*
- *This proposal violates the Stemilt Partnership Mission, by potentially impacting our wildlife as well as our recreational experiences by having an urban development so close to that area*
- *I also agree with the other concerns regarding potential fire hazards*
- *I also agree with the concerns detailed below regarding water use*

I reviewed promotional videos and the project proposal for the expansion.

I agree with the following comments:

- The expansion will increase beginner terrain
- The expansion will increase parking

- The expansion will add other activities such as cross country skiing, which I could see myself enjoying

I disagree with the following comments:

- “Maintain the values of stewardship, community, and small mountain vibe – aka the MR way of life... keep our soul intact while growing. Keep our roots and our ties to the community”

I watched the promotional video for MR, with Dr. Freed, Mayor Frank Kuntz, and Shiloh Burgess. I moved here about 4 years ago from Seattle (transplanted from Indiana), so I am not a true local. I am a physician at Confluence Health and I was attracted to Wenatchee because of the ease of outdoor access, including Mission Ridge. On the same side of the coin, in Seattle I was already living close to 3 ski resorts – Crystal Mountain, Stevens Pass, and Snoqualmie Pass. Why would I move to Wenatchee when I had access to these larger mountains? The answer is that I wanted to get away from the crowds, traffic, and overcrowding of Seattle. Even after moving to Wenatchee, I still owned season passes to both MR and SP, but ultimately, after the overcrowding became too much at SP; my husband and I only own MR passes now. MR is special because it is a community asset. It is a local ski hill. Creating condominiums and housing up there is not needed because:

- Most locals already live <30 minutes from the hill
- The downtown area is already expanding with a number of new hotels
- The city itself is expanding with more homes being built throughout the valley as Wenatchee is expanding

If we are truly doing this project to benefit the community, unfortunately I see us losing our “local ski hill” vibe. We will become another touristy, overcrowded resort with traffic issues. The ability of the residents of Wenatchee to escape to the trails and find solitude will be permanently impacted. We will lose our small mountain vibe.

As we continue to attract physicians and other professionals to the area, how can we continue to distinguish ourselves as having a local ski hill with solitude when we are no longer the local ski hill, but rather a resort?

I do understand the positive financial impact of this expansion, but there are more sustainable options to positively impact our community than an apparent economic boost that is accompanied by the loss of our small mountain feel, with the current project proposal. If the housing structures of the project expansion were significantly downsized, thus reducing the demand on the area with too many users, I would be in greater agreement with this project.

I greatly appreciate your consideration of the potential impact of this project.

Sincerely,

Erin Andrade