October 29, 2008

Kittitas County Board of Commissioners
Kittitas County Courthouse
205 West Fifth, Suite 108
Ellensburg, WA 98926

RE: Summit at Snoqualmie comments for proposed comprehensive plan amendments

Dear Kittitas County Board of Commissioners,

We understand that Kittitas County is once again working on updating its Comprehensive Plan. Part of this update is examining the various Urban Growth Nodes (UGN's), of which Snoqualmie Pass is one. Speaking on behalf of The Summit at Snoqualmie Ski Area, I wish to reiterate and place into the record our positions voiced last May during the public hearing process held at that time.

As I testified at the public hearing, held Tuesday, May 6, Snoqualmie Pass is a vibrant and growing community. Peak day visitation to the Snoqualmie Pass area exceeded 20,000 people per day this past winter. Total visitation to The Summit's facilities alone this past winter will top 725,000. As the growing population of Western Washington looks for more and more recreational opportunities, Snoqualmie Pass is certain to see increased demands for outdoor recreation and the commercial services which support it. The Summit at Snoqualmie and Snoqualmie Pass in general is a large economic driver for Kittitas County through sales taxes, property taxes, and jobs. The Summit at Snoqualmie is by far the largest employer in the Upper County district, and second only to Central Washington University for the county as a whole.

For the past 11 years, The Summit has engaged in an extensive and thorough planning process with the United States Forest Service to ensure that it is in a position to provide the levels of services commensurate with foreseeable future demands. Throughout this process the Forest Service and The Summit have relied upon the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan and specifically the Snoqualmie Pass Sub-Area Plan as a guide for future growth. The Snoqualmie Pass Sub-Area Plan was developed with a great deal of consideration for current and future demands at Snoqualmie Pass.
We urge the Board of Commissioners as it reviews and revises its Comprehensive Plan to seek an appropriate designation for Snoqualmie Pass that recognizes its characteristics of a highly utilized and valued recreational area. It’s vital that the designation adopted maintain appropriate flexibility for the various uses necessary to support the current large numbers of people using this area and provides adequate avenues for future managed growth. This includes an appropriate balance of high density residential, recreational, and commercial uses.

We look forward to further involvement in this process in the near future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dan Brewster
General Manager
The Summit at Snoqualmie