



September 18, 2009

Katie Cote, Contract Planner
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 North Ruby Street, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Dear Ms. Cote:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed project entitled "SnoCadia on Gold Creek Long Plat and Planned Unit Development (P-07-00058)." On behalf of the Western Transportation Institute (WTI), I am very concerned about your tentative plans to issue a Determination of Non-Significance for this proposal. The proposed location for the project falls within a larger area that has long been recognized by regional biologists as an important connective link in the north-south movement of wildlife in the Cascade Range. Indeed, this area is the focus of an extensive wildlife monitoring effort being conducted by WTI and other researchers in association with the I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East Project, and will ultimately site a substantial wildlife crossing structure intended to facilitate wildlife passage across I-90. I hope that you will give serious consideration to SnoCadia's potential impact on the habitat and movement of wildlife populations in the region, and that you will thus require a full environmental analysis as you move forward in this process.

Sincerely,

Robert Long
Research Ecologist

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Transportation
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September 15, 2009

Leslie D. Brown
10421 SW Bank Rd, # 19
Vashon, WA 98070

Kirk Holmes, Director
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 North Ruby St., Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

RE: SnoCadia on Gold Creek long plat and planned unit development (P-07-00058).

Dear Mr. Holmes:

I believe the proposed SnoCadia development in Gold Creek Valley has the potential to have a significant impact on wildlife as well as on private and public use of the valley. I urge the county to employ the utmost thoroughness in its review of this project in the interest of wildlife, the Cascade ecosystem and the public good.

Gold Creek Valley is a critical corridor for wildlife moving north and south in the Cascades. We are currently in the process of committing millions of dollars of our public funds to build wildlife bridges to maintain this link. The SnoCadia project has the potential to significantly interfere with wildlife use of this migration corridor, which could have serious implications for the genetic health of wildlife populations. The high density of housing and roads associated with the project are likely to discourage wildlife use, and fencing would be used to exclude wildlife. Wildlife play a formative role in our ecosystems, and alterations of wildlife use and migration have the potential to alter the Cascade ecosystem far beyond the footprint of this project.

Construction activities and the addition of roads in the vicinity of Gold Creek, with its endangered bull trout and other aquatic species, are another cause for concern. Streams and rivers are extremely sensitive to the excessive sedimentation that results from construction activities and from roads even during normal operations. The sensitivity of this area warrants careful review of any project proposed for this close to the creek.

The SnoCadia project would also have a significant effect on the valley's human environment. As a property owner in the valley, I'm concerned that the SnoCadia project, with its high housing densities, large units, large restaurants and commercial enterprises and associated roads and traffic volumes will interfere with public and private access and recreation and change the character of the valley community that has been fairly stable over many decades.

Based on the potential impacts of the SnoCadia project to wildlife, fish habitat in Gold Creek and the human environment of Gold Creek Valley, I believe that this project

should receive the most careful review and evaluation. I strongly urge Kittitas County and the Community Development Services to require a full Environmental Impact Statement for this project.

Please keep me informed of hearings, meetings, decisions and other proceedings relevant to this matter.

Sincerely,


Leslie D. Brown

Cc: Kittitas County Board of Commissioners
205 W 5th AVE Suite 108
Ellensburg WA 98926