

To: Bradley Gasawski  
Planner 1  
Kittitas County Community Development Services  
411 N. Ruby St. Suite 2  
Ellensburg, WA 98926  
Email: [Bradley.gasawski@co.kittitas.wa.us](mailto:Bradley.gasawski@co.kittitas.wa.us)

06/27/2024

Re: Majestic Group SEPA Application SE-24-0020, Parcel #778834

I would like to bring to your attention the inadequate responses to this application throughout the document. The answers lack both quantity and quality to the point that the application does not provide a clear picture of impacts to the Easton Community.

The request for this parcel to clear the land of all vegetation without a development plan is deceptive and should not be allowed. This limited amount of land use planning opens the door for future development that does not align or mix well with Easton's recreational community. Limited planning would have negative impacts on the community of Easton's abundant wildlife, camping, year round recreational activities and recreational businesses. Negative impacts would also be felt by residents that reside in our historically walkable pedestrian trafficked community.

Clearing the land of all vegetation in an elk migration/living environment will impact the high amount of elk and various wildlife creatures that live and thrive in the Easton area. Exit 70 Easton has a historic underpass on I90 where elk, other animals and pedestrians have crossed historically from the north side of I90 to the south side of I90 in Easton since I90 was originally built.

Additionally, WSDOT is constructing another wildlife crossing on the Easton Hill that will create more migration of animals directly through this area. We all have multiple bull elk and cows standing in our yards on both side of I90 north and south. I have seen herds of elk run across I90 here in Easton near both exit 70 and exit 71.

I would like to provide further insight on the following application in response to section 12 Recreation and section 13 Historic and cultural preservation.

Responses provided on the application were not adequate and do not indicate how parcel #778834 resides in the middle of the Easton recreational hub. Easton in most of its entirety is a recreational and high pedestrian trafficked community residing at the base of the Cascade Mountain Range.

### **Section 12 Recreation:**

What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

The site borders State land and the Silver Ridge Ranch both of which have multiple recreational uses, such as hiking, camping, horse riding, snowmobiling, etc.

*The Community of Easton is the gateway to the Cascade Mountains and the Alpine Lakes Wilderness area. Easton has extensive recreational activities of all types (hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, paddle boarding, canoeing, boating, camping, recreational retreat facilities, Lake Easton Washington State Park, US Forest Service camping and 4x4 roads, Lake Easton RV Resort, Silver Ridge Ranch, Double K Ranch and more). Majority of Easton's entire community revolves around recreation activities and access to the Cascade Mountains through hiking trails and forest service roads.*

*See attached map of Easton Winter Sports depicting Exit 70 directly in the vicinity of parcel #778834. See attached map of North Central Cascades Depicting Exit 70 at the bottom of the map near Lake Easton State Park that shows the vast access to the Cascade Mountain trail system that runs through to the North Cascades National Park, etc. all accessed off of Exit 70 forest service road 4818 that is in the*

*direct vicinity of parcel #778834. See attached map depicting Easton Exits 70 and 71 and trails, recreational activities all in the vicinity of parcel #778834. See attached map of Lake Easton Sno-Park Groomed Trail System off Exit 70 in the vicinity of parcel #778834. See attached picture of snowmobile sign on Sparks Rd. in front of parcel #778834 depicting a snowmobile riding route on the Sparks County Rd. directly in front of this parcel.*

- a. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so describe.

There is no existing permitted recreation use associated with the property.

*Current winter recreational snowmobile groomed trail that runs down Sparks Rd. directly in front of parcel #778834 will have direct impacts with involving winter recreationalist snowmobilers riding on Sparks Rd. as depicted by Snowmobile Speed Limit Signs of 25 miles per hour and snowmobile depicted signs located on Sparks Rd. in the vicinity of parcel #778834. There is also recreational walking paths that go directly in front of parcel #778834 that the Community of Easton utilizes for pedestrian foot traffic to travel to and from the ParkSide store and restaurant, for food, meals, etc.*

Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

No Impacts on recreation opportunities.

*Recreational activities will be impacted big time off Exit 70 near parcel #778834. During winter snows when the snowmobilers are utilizing Sparks Rd. to access the 4818 Forest Service rd. and snow park for groomed trail access they will be riding and or driving in the same path entering parcel #778834. This is one example of why limited panning on parcel #778834 should not be allowed.*

*Foot pedestrian traffic walking directly in front of parcel #778834 for residents to access RV Town for food, meals etc. will be impacted by traffic from parcel #778834.*

*The intersection of Exit 70 near parcel #778834 has various recreational activities traveling past parcel #778834 rather it be a snowmobile, pedestrian, horseback rider, bicyclist, vehicles hauling boats to the lake, canoes, etc. for access to recreational destinations in the vicinity such as the Alpine Lake Wilderness trail system, Lake Kachess, Mt. Anapolois 4x4 trails etc. This is a highly recreational trafficked area that parcel #778834 is located in. Any vehicular access from this parcel needs to address these impacts.*

### **Section 13: Historic and cultural preservation:**

d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and permits that may be required.

Not applicable

*The town of Easton was split in two (North side and South side) when I90 was built. Exit 70 in the vicinity of parcel #778834 is a vital resource in connecting all pedestrian and recreational trails across Exit 70 from North to South or under the overpass near Exit 70. This is the only area along I90 in the Mountains to Sound Greenway Heritage area that allows for pedestrian and recreational trail traffic to get across I90 and connect our pedestrian traffic from North to South as far as I know other than Snoqualmie Pass. This is a historic resource that we have and must enforce to keep open. There will be recreational travelers that travel past and or in front of parcel #778834 that will need to be addressed. This has been a historic path for pedestrian travelers, etc. past and in front of parcel #778834 to travel from one side of I90 to the other side.*

### **14. Transportation:**

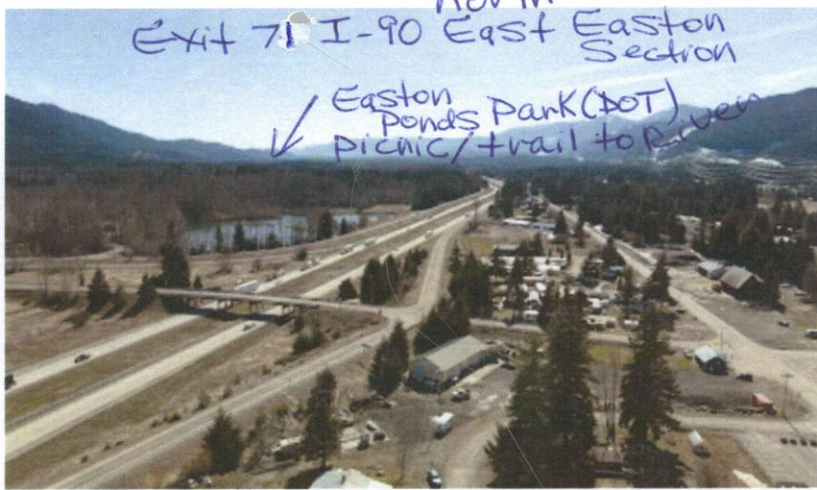
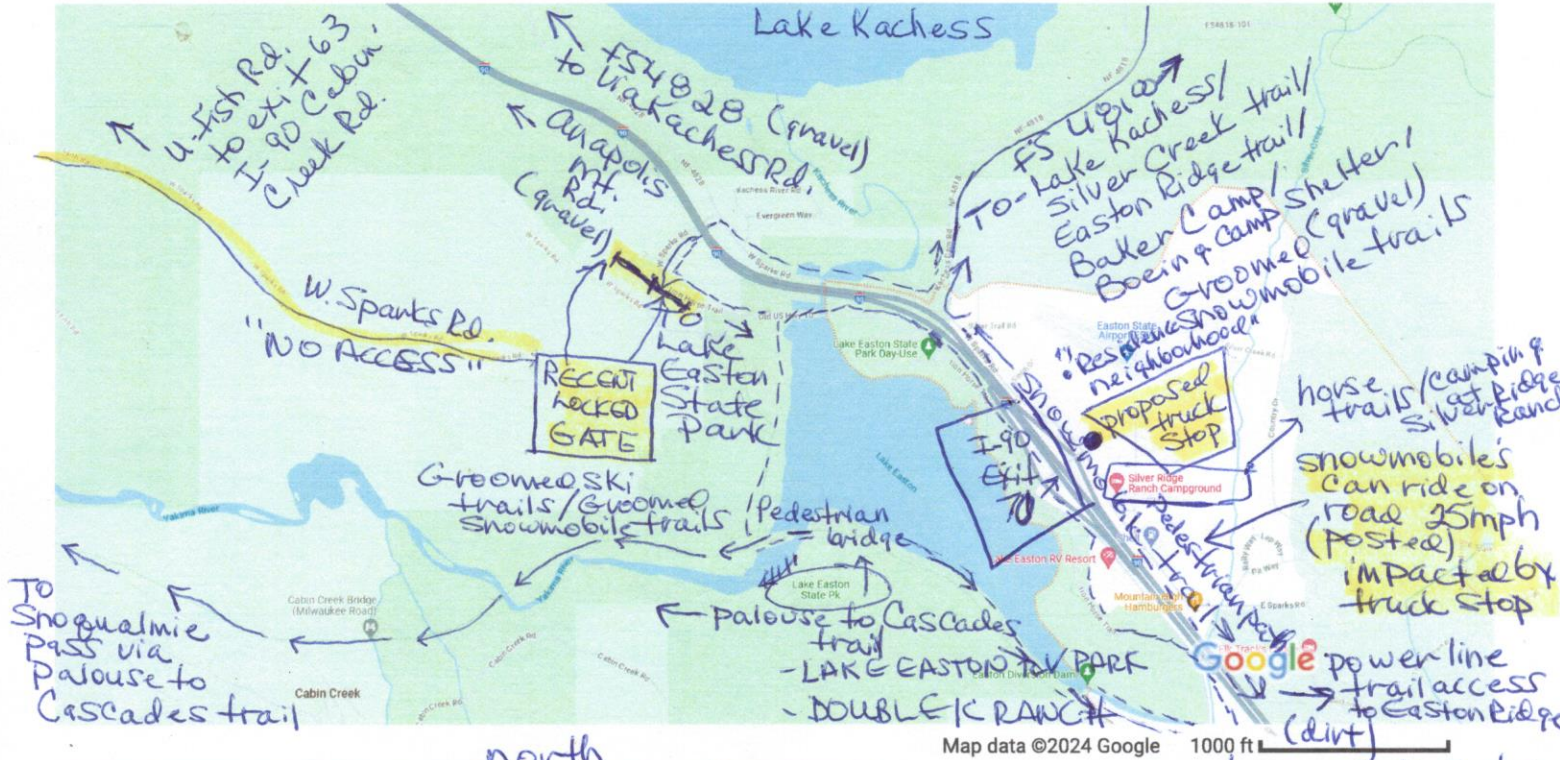
- c. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle, or state transportation facilities, not including driveways. If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

The project does not require any new or improvements to existing roads streets, pedestrian, bicycle, or state transportation facilities with the exception of the driveway access on Sparks Rd.

*There is currently bicycle and pedestrian horseback, snowmobile, etc. traffic that travels in front of parcel #778834 to connect from residences to store and loop trails that connect to Washington State Park trails and or forest service recreational roads. Big recreational area as Easton is mostly in its entirety recreational facilities and rural residences.*

# "NW Section of Easton"

Google Maps Easton



Map data ©2024 Google 1000 ft

NW Section ties into SW Section thru State park and Railroad St. to Cabin Creek Reload SnoPark and Forrest Service Rds.

Lake Easton Loop trail to Railroad St. past Easton School to Ironhorse Trailhead Palouse to Cascades trail in Easton's SE section (paved)

## Home

Easton  
Washington

Cloudy · 39°F  
11:30 AM



Directions



Save



Nearby



Send to phone



Share

## Quick facts

Easton is an unincorporated community and census-

- Railroad St. is County Rd. (south of I-90)
- Cabin Creek Rd is (south of I-90) County Rd.
- W. Spanks Rd is County Rd. (north of I-90)

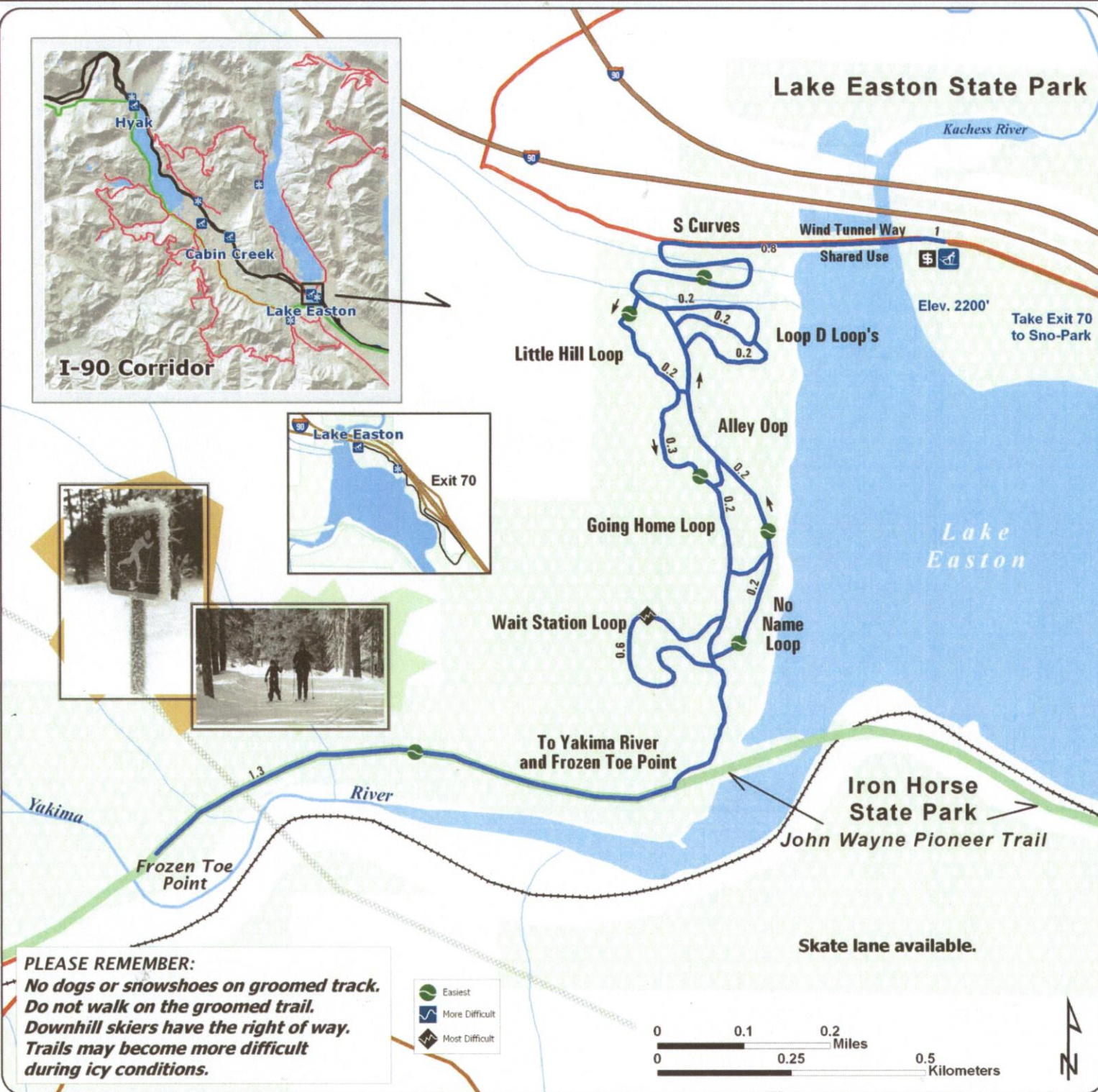
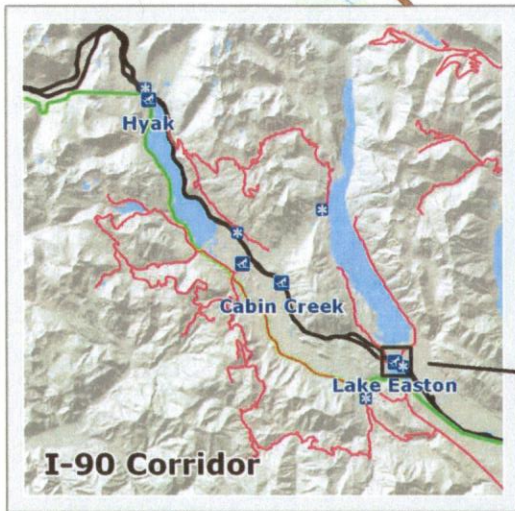
# ALPINE WILDERNESS





# CENTRAL CAS

# Welcome Lake Easton Sno-Park Groomed Trail System



## Explanation

- Non-Motorized Sno-Park
- Groomed Ski Trail
- Groomed Snowmobile Trail
- John Wayne Pioneer Trail
- Restroom
- Highways
- Sno-Park Access Road
- Active Railroad
- Utility Corridor
- State Park Boundary
- Special grooming permit required

Area has 5 kilometers of groomed cross country ski trails. Trail name and distance labeled between intersections.

Kilometers

*Snow grooming equipment may be on the trail at any time.*

*Trail grooming schedules may change without notice due to snow conditions, temperatures, equipment breakdowns, etc.*

*Be aware of potential avalanche danger, check [www.mvac.us](http://www.mvac.us) before you leave home.*

*Trail grooming schedules and maps at [www.parks.wa.gov/winter](http://www.parks.wa.gov/winter)  
Please report errors or comments to: [winter@parks.wa.gov](mailto:winter@parks.wa.gov)*

**For Emergency Call 911  
Kittitas Co. Sheriff 509-925-8534**

### PLEASE REMEMBER:

**No dogs or snowshoes on groomed track.  
Do not walk on the groomed trail.  
Downhill skiers have the right of way.  
Trails may become more difficult during icy conditions.**

- Easiest
- More Difficult
- Most Difficult

