



October 16, 2015

Steve Kuennen,  
Acting Forest Supervisor  
2930 Wetmore Ave, Suite 3A  
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Acting Supervisor Kuennen:

The Mountaineers, founded in 1906, is a nonprofit outdoor education, conservation, and recreation organization whose mission is “to enrich the community by helping people explore, conserve, learn about and enjoy the lands and waters of the Pacific Northwest and beyond.” Based in Seattle, Washington, we have over 13,000 members and guests – a passionate, engaged community of people who knowledgeable and care about the outdoors. We work to protect the outdoor experience for current and future generations.

We are writing today in support of the reauthorization of special use permits for 19 existing ski clubs on the MBS Nation Forest. All of these ski clubs provide unique opportunities for people to recreate on our public lands. Our lodge at Stevens Pass has been a piece of the ski history and recreation economy here in Washington State for decades. Our lodge hosts youth groups and in doing so often provides first winter experiences to this population. Our volunteers engage in stewardship of the area, giving back to the Forest in that way.

We look forward to another two decades of partnership and stewardship of this area.

Sincerely,

Leann Arend  
Chief Operating Officer