

Save Gold Creek Valley Alliance

In 2006 a group of concerned citizens from both sides of the Cascades were active in an organization known as the **Save Gold Creek Valley Alliance**. Members put forth ideas and perspectives dedicated to saving and preserving Gold Valley. The *Alliance* sponsored a website to elaborate their opposition to a large 500 acre resort development being proposed to the northeast of SnoCadia in Section 15. Their web site was taken down when the resort development did not materialize. Recent land use and zoning changes will probably result in down zoning that acreage area from Master Planned Resort zoning to Open Space Residential land use of low density residential.

The information that follows is excerpted from the **Save Gold Creek Valley Alliance** website as the developer of SnoCadia wants to share these important thoughts and values with you. As perspective landowners on the edge of Gold Valley it is your right to enjoy it, but also to assume an important duty to protect it as on-site stewards of this beautiful natural resource for humans, and the flora and fauna which abound therein.

- Gold Creek Valley is a portal to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness
- Our mission is to preserve the beauty, recreational quality, and ecological significance of Gold Creek Valley, so that people today and those who follow can enjoy this remarkable place
- Gold Creek Valley is like no other place in Washington's central Cascades. It's a relatively flat, wide valley that extends gradually northward, from mid-elevation forests of hemlock and fir to the peaks and basins of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Few other broad, north-south valleys exist in the Cascades—and the one most similar to Gold Creek, Alpentel, is a ski resort. All of these factors—its gentle terrain, relative wildness, and south-north orientation—make Gold Creek Valley a place of great ecological significance, all the more remarkable for its proximity to the Cascade Crest, ski area developments, and the I-90 corridor.
- Lying between the steep cliffs of Rampart Ridge and the Kendall Peaks, Gold Creek cuts an easy swath through this surprisingly broad and wild valley. Gold Creek, one of the headwater streams of the Yakima River, begins in subalpine lakes high up on the mountain walls and hurries to the valley floor via steep, rocky cascades. Once on the valley floor, the creek's pace lessens as it winds through majestic snow forests of hemlock and silver fir. Douglas squirrels scold from the high branches; on the forest floor, bobcats stalk snowshoe hares; in spring and summer, the haunting

songs of both hermit and Swainson thrushes resonate throughout the valley. A mule deer and her fawn melt soundlessly into the forest understory. Brightly colored butterflies—parnassians, admirals, fritillaries, and swallowtails—flutter among native wildflower gardens, as if the flowers themselves had taken to the air.

- The broad floor of the low valley supports the development of sprawling wetlands adjacent to and separate from the creek. Winding through this gentle topography, Gold Creek supports thriving beaver colonies, scarce along higher-gradient mountain streams. Beavers construct dams among the secondary channels and backwaters of Gold Creek, creating additional wetlands where native frogs and salamanders breed.
- Gold Creek Valley is part of a vital corridor for wildlife from the North Cascades to the South Cascades, linking wild areas north and south of the I-90 corridor for wide-ranging animals such as elk, black bear, and cougars.

Listed below are some of the wildlife identified on the now defunct web site of the ***Save Gold Creek Valley Alliance***: (The lists below are incomplete).

Bird list

- Hummingbirds
- Gray jay
- Stellar's jay
- Raven
- Junco
- Chestnut-backed chickadee
- Black-capped chickadee
- Varied thrush
- Swainson's thrush
- Hawks
- Golden-crowned kinglet
- Winter wren
- Pileated woodpecker
- Hairy woodpecker
- Downy woodpecker
- Flicker
- Dipper
- Kingfisher
- Merganser
- Canada goose
- Bufflehead

- Common loon

Mammals

- Mule deer
- Elk
- Bear
- Cougar
- Bobcat
- Douglas squirrel
- Snowshoe hare
- Townsend's chipmunk
- Yellow pine chipmunk
- Coyote
- Beaver
- Marten (?)
- Weasel
- Deer mice

Amphibians

- Tailed frog
- Cascade frog
- Red-legged frog