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To whom it may concern;

I am writing in support of the Special Recreation Management Areas Proposed Option within the Recommended Wilderness.

While I myself am not a snowmobile rider, I have several friends and relatives that are, and I live in a community that benefits greatly from the economic boost that comes with winter activities in the area being considered. I have taken one snowmobile trip up the Hoodoo Pass area and have to say that it was one of the most beautiful experiences I have had in my 20+ years living in Superior, just as breathe taking in the winter as in the summer. Most of the people that I know who recreate in these areas have done so most of their lives and have grown up doing so with their families – it has played a major role in who they are today. In the many years that they have ridden in these areas – there has been no sign of ecological damage caused by snowmobiling.

In reading a bit about the issue at hand my understanding is that the 2012 planning rule does NOT prohibit snowmobile activity from a Recommended Wilderness Area – the guidelines under section 219.10 – multiple use 'state that management of areas recommended for wilderness designation to protect and maintain the ecological and social characteristics that provide the bases for their suitability for wilderness designation'. I don't believe there is or has been ANY sign of degradation of ecological and social characteristics over the past 30 years caused by snowmobiles, if there had been – the area wouldn't qualify for a Recommended Wilderness Area. The rule also calls for 'sustainable recreation that includes non-motorized and motorized' – I would consider 30+ years of historical use a prime example of what is meant by sustainable. I also believe that Region One Policy is subordinate to the 2012 Rules and shouldn't be allowed to close Recommended Wilderness Areas to snowmobiles.

The one change that should be made is The Goat Lake and surrounding bowls, Blacklead Mtn including the south facing bowls, Doe Cr. Drainage and surrounding bowls, Deer Cr. Drainage and surrounding bowls need to be added to the Williams Lake cherry stem access. This would mean the riding areas would remain the same but there would be no access from the 581 road from Cayuse Jct.

Even as a non-rider, I feel that the pristine back country riding areas are highly valued not only by snowmobilers and summer users, but by the communities that depend on the influx of people traveling to the area using our services, and needs to be weighted equally for all of the reasons that the summer, and winter users AND the local economy cherish.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Staci Hayes