**Priest Lake Nordic Club, Inc.**

**6827 W. Lakeshore Road**

**Priest Lake, ID 83856**

**Cell 406-431-1219**

September 9, 2022

Comments on the Kaniksu Over-Snow Vehicle Use Designation Project

I have reviewed the Proposed Action for the above referenced project and have the following comments and suggestions. I am president of the Priest Lake Nordic Club, Inc. and have been cross-country skiing and grooming Nordic ski trails in the Priest Lake area for the past 15 years.

1. Overall the Priest Lake Nordic Club supports the proposed action. We are pleased to see that the Forest Service has closed the Hanna Flats trail systems to OSV travel yearlong. The exceptions are the USFS airstrip and designated snowmobile route along the Hanna Flats Road, which are open to OVS travel. This is positive step and will minimize conflicts between Nordic ski and snowshoe enthusiasts and over-snow vehicles. An exception should also be made for owners of the two private properties on the Raven Ranch Road.

To reach trailheads from Highway 57 or the Park N’ Ski parking area, four of the Nordic trails (Big Cedar, Buffaloberry, Bead Lilly and Twin Flower use the Hanna Flats road, and three trails (Big Cedar, Twin Flower and Kinnikinnick) use the Raven Ranch Road. The first 1/3rd mile of the Kinnikinnick trail, northwest of the Raven Ranch Road, along the old gravel pit, has been an area of frequent and repeated conflict between Nordic enthusiasts and snowmobiles. The groomed ski trails are often wiped out by snowmobiles within 12 hours of when the trails have been groomed and track set.

1. Considering the project objective of minimizing conflicts between motor vehicle use and existing or proposed recreational uses of National Forest System lands, the Nordic club proposes that the designated Park N’ Ski area at the north end of the USFS airstrip be restricted to Park N’ Ski pass holders ($25 annual pass paid to Idaho Parks and Recreation) only, and that a new parking area be established at the south end of the airstrip, adjacent to the groomed snowmobile route, for OSV truck and trailer parking. Last winter (2021/2022) there were weekends when there were so many trucks and trailers parked at the north end of the airstrip that there was no room for Park N’ Ski pass holders to park. Please see the two attached photos.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Tom Weitz, President