September 12, 2022

To whom it concerns,

The purpose of this message is to express STRONG OPPOSITION to the proposed plan for Over Snow Vehicle Travel in the area around Grouse Mountain in Sagle, Idaho. Serious concerns and questions support this opposition.

1. The Canyon Creek Ranch, consisting of 26 home sites, is located directly below Grouse Mountain. In fact, part of the Canyon Creek Ranch road leads directly to a Forest Service gate which enters into the proposed area for OSV use. For numerous reasons, this makes OSV use in this area inappropriate for those of us living here.
2. Additional vehicle traffic within our development would create unacceptable conditions, including additional wear on roads which we, the homeowners within Canyon Creek Ranch, are responsible for maintaining, potential harm to children, and inadequate parking at access point for vehicles much less trailers.
3. The added noise pollution created by OSVs operating in close proximity to residences would be unacceptable.
4. Habitat for deer, elk, moose, cougar, bobcat, wild turkey, hawks, eagles, owls not to mention the numerous birds and smaller mammals would be considerably disturbed.
5. On the website map, the section around Grouse Mountain is marked as “Over Snow Vehicle Year Long Use” which does not make sense according to the stated definition for an OSV. Adequate snow might be accessible for at most 4 months of the year, so why “Year Long?” Is this classification going to eventually lead to off road vehicles, other than OSVs, having access when snow level is not adequate?

In addition to the concerns listed above, there are significant concerns regarding enforcement. Currently, although vehicle traffic is prohibited beyond the Forest Service gate at the top of our development, numerous individuals from outside our community bring ATVs through our community, park their trucks near the gate and ride their ATVs around the gate and continuing up the Forest Service road. The signs that prohibit vehicles beyond the gate have been torn off the gate, posts and/or trees. After calling the Forest Service about this problem, they have come up to re-post signs and block the alternative paths with large boulders and logs, only to have them removed within days. To residents living in the Canyon Creek Ranch development, this indicates that individuals currently illegally using the Grouse Mountain area are not dissuaded by gates and signs, and enforcement is not possible. Opening the area to additional use and traffic and expecting anyone from the Forest Service to enforce new guidelines and restrictions is unrealistic.

Obviously, all citizens of our state have the right to enjoy OSVs and other all- terrain vehicles in appropriate areas as long as they are adhering to regulations and guidelines. Additionally, the Forest Service should have the appropriate funding it needs in order to enforce that use and to protect our natural environment.

There are areas in the Idaho Panhandle that are much better suited for OSV use than the Grouse Mountain area in Sagle. **Please remove the Grouse Mountain area from the current Proposal for OSV Travel.**

Respectfully,