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March 10, 2023

To Whom ~~It~~ May concern,

These are my comments for the Granite Goose Landscape Restoration Project: I agree with the proposed Granite Mountain area closure for the full winter season, and be included in the Winter Travel Map. The motorized community has 2 million acres to play in. Please leave a small portion of the Payette National Forest to the Brundage Mountain Snowcat Program and back country skiers.

I also agree with a winter closure to over snow vehicle use near the Bear Basin Nordic Ski Area. This

should include the Payette Lake Ski Club permitted boundary. As a nordic skier, I have observed several times, this winter where snowmobilers and motorized snow bikers ruined the grooming on the nordic trails by crossing back and forth throughout the Bear Basin Nordic Ski Area.

Some snowmobilers have the impression they are able to drive their snowmobiles up and down the city road to Bear Basin proper. This area in front of the private property is closed to snowmobile traffic to the Payette Forest Boundary.

I question the establishment of a trailhead and restroom facility for Bear Basin along the Bear Basin Road. This area is already used extensively in the summer and this would promote more use and trampling of the fragile vegetation. Rare plants (an onion) that previously occurred along the basin have been extirpated due to overuse and parking motor homes along the Bear Basin Road.

I feel expanding the parking lot where the existing trailhead for the Bear Basin Nordic Area exists would better protect the resource of Bear Basin itself.

Thank you for your time and
consideration.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Olson

(Marilyn Olson)

