Walking thru Life- a thoughtful objection to increasing the access of motorized vehicles to the RGNF

Now that I am getting older, I see my life is a journey with no particular destination. My companions are the people I stop and say “good morning” to; and then we both go on our separate way. I have other companions too- the wild and domestic animals that cross my path during their short lives. -And the great silent presence of trees that will live so much longer than me giving me comfort in my walk through life. Where do the Japanese go to die?- the forest. Too much is made of life! We cling on to it with both hands, making a huge commotion and covering great (physical) distances so we don’t have to feel alone. Now that we are facing what some call “the sixth extinction event,” it is time to take stock. Do we really want to increase the number of noisy snowmobiles with their reliance on fossil fuels- that are detrimental to the wildlife and the trees (to be cut down for snowmobile trails?) and to the very earth itself lying under the snowpack? I am sure the motivation of the forest service, at least those in it proposing more snowmobile access in the RGNF, is not to increase profit (or GDP as it’s being called now) but only to add to a small number oi people’s recreational enjoyment of the forest. What happened to stewardship of the forest, for the long term (not shortsighted), enjoyment of many people now and in generations to come? – the protection of natural resources for all was the founding principle of the Forest Service. Has it somehow gotten lost? As RFK said when campaigning for president: “GNP [gross national product; or profit margin ] measures neither our wit nor our courage, neither our wisdom nor our learning, neither our compassion nor our devotion to our country. It measures everything, in short, except that which makes life worthwhile.”

Thank you for considering my comment against the expansion of snowmobile usage in the RGNF.

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