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Organization:

Title:

Comments: 12/07/2021

Mr. Pentecost

District Ranger

Prince of Wales Island

Dear Mr. Pentecost:

I would like to comment on the over-the-snow actions presented in the spring and fall POWLLA public workshops. The over-the-snow actions support economic activity across the island during winter when other recreation activities are at a lull. There is no downside to the Forest Service supporting and promoting the proposed improvements. The over-the-snow user group has proposed the actions, been diligent working in the POWLLA process and is willing to complete the work at their own expense.

Since there is little potential for any resource damage, the Forest Service could move to quickly approve the minor actions that have been proposed this fall. A timely review process is important when a user group proposes to complete the work since coordination and momentum in the group is key.

The over-the-snow user group has worked with the District Ranger for nearly 20 years to minimize impacts, stay on the right side of laws and requirements and promote responsible over-the-snow use. The actions to improve access is a way of helping broaden our user group and maintain resource protections by making it easier for new, less-experienced users and young people just starting out. The actions are not necessary for our continued use nor are they for initiating any kind of new use.

Hopefully the process under the POWLLA does not become so burdensome that it jeopardizes the groups willingness to continue to engage under the LLA process.

Sincerely,

Robert Sheets