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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please accept my comments on scoping for the Granite Goose Landscape Restoration Project proposal.

My comments are specific to recreational management of the Bear Basin area in this proposal.

I am an avid nordic skier and hiker. I use the trail system in Bear Basin year round. I am also an active member of the Payette Lakes Nordic Ski Patrol, serving the Bear Basin Nordic Ski Area.

I strongly support the proposed Bear Basin Winter Motorized Closure Area, though with some expansion to better delineate boundaries between areas closed vs. open to motorized vehicles. Numerous violations occur every winter, with snowmobiles and snow bikes entering into the nordic permit area. Please consider expanding Bear Basin Nordic permit area and motorized closure north to FS 50813 and FS 50452 to the east of where these two roads are in very close proximity. Such boundaries would better identify the two management areas. I support the proposed year-round closure of FS 50813 to motorized vehicles.

The Bear Basin Nordic area is used heavily by hikers and bicyclists throughout the non-winter seasons. Consider making the Bear Basin motorized closure year-round. This will further help reduce erosion and road degradation and reduce recreational conflicts. I also urge the exclusion of electric bicycles on non-motorized trails. E-bikes can travel at speeds that really conflict with hiking and equestrian users, making trails dangerous.

Use of the Bear Basin area by non-motorized recreationists has been increasing, and will continue to do so. Please set this unique area aside for non-motorized use year-round.