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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern regarding the Coyote - Divide project # 59803

I use the Kings Hill area both summer and winter and I feel this project is a high priority for the area. My issue is not with logging what so ever. But I do have concerns with your haul route out of the mountains.

If you choose to haul out Divide road it would be a challenge for the contractor to keep the road plowed. He would have to plow his way in and out with the possibility of have to plow more. There are three parks with very high drifting potential, O'Brian, Moose, and lone tree park. All three of these parks are between the intersection with Moose Creek road and highway 89.

With that thought in mind, there is an alternate route down Moose Creek road to highway 89. The mileage on forest roads is slightly more but you drop in elevation and the snow fall is much less. It would be easier to plow and it is all down hill for the drivers. An added bonus is the first 3 miles are plowed by Meagher County.

This route would keep the slow moving truck traffic away from the congested Showdown traffic and alleviate a significant safety hazard.

Now on to the main concern as a snowmobile organization we have two sides of the mountain to ride and groom. The east side we groom about 90 miles of more advanced snowmobile trails and on the west side about 120 miles of more family oriented trails. If Divide road were to be plowed we would loose this experience for an element of the snowmobiling public. In addition two more user groups use the trails on the west side, Cross country skiers and the sled dog groups. The dog sledders use the trails almost nightly for recreation or to train for events. Divide road is our main artery with no way to bypass it if it were plowed.

The town of Neihart relies heavily on snowmobiles for their winter income. Snowmobiles ride up Johnson Draw to access the mountain, their route would be blocked at the intersection with Divide road. Business in Neihart could lose upwards of \$ 400,000 in revenues.

Last winter our trail count numbers were upwards of 13,000 snowmobiles. To lose our access would be divesting to the snowmobile program.

I'm attaching two maps Map 1 is your proposed route and Map 2 is an alternative that wouldn't be perfect but workable to maintain at least some of our riding area.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.