Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/22/2023 6:00:00 AM
First name: Rebecca
Last name: Young
Organization:
Title:
Comments: "";

September 22, 2023

Kootenai National Forest

Attn: Over-snow Motorized Travel Plan

31374 US Highway 2

Libby, Montana 59923

Dear Supervisor Benson,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the Kootenai winter travel plan scoping documents. I appreciate that the public was provided the opportunity to see the minimization criteria at this early phase. I also commend the Forest Service for not allowing snowmobiling in wild places like recommended Wilderness and research natural areas.

There are places on the forest where this process can seek to increase winter motorized opportunities, such as Twenty Odd Peak, Drift Peak, a portion of Dry Creek, the east side of Gold Hill inventoried roadless area (IRA), Big Creek IRA the east side of Robinson Mountain IRA, and the center portion of the Northwest Peaks IRA.

And, there are some areas that should not be opened to snowmobile use due to the important wildlife habitat and connectivity they provide. This includes large portions ofthe Galena, Barren, and Allen Peak IRAs south of the Cabinet Wilderness, as well as the west side of the Zulu IRA, most of the Mount Henry IRA with the exception of the area around Boulder Lakes, the

west side of Robinson Mountain IRA, the east section of Saddle Mountain IRA, and portions of Buckhorn Ridge and the Northwest Peaks IRAs.

This combination of management areas would support a wide range of both motorized and non-motorized winter recreation opportunities and the winter outdoor recreation economy that our communities benefit from, while also protecting wildlife populations.
Here are the ways in which I participate in winter recreation on the Kootenai National Forest and areas where I have taken note that winter management could be improved or conflicts could be reduced:

While winter activities are important so is the preservation of our animal habitats.

I appreciate all efforts you and the Kootenai National Forest team will take throughout this planning process to take into account setting guidelines that minimize recreation use impacts to soil, watershed, and vegetation; disruption to wildlife habitat; conflicts between different recreational uses; and recreational sound disturbances. I'd like to see the Kootenai National Forest create a robust implementation, monitoring, and enforcement system that will enforce the uses that are designated in this travel plan.

Thank you for considering my comments. I look forward to continuing to participate in this planning process.

Sincerely,

Name: Rebecca Young