

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/28/2024 6:52:46 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Ms. Marten. I am opposed to reducing the size of the Great Burn recommended wilderness to allow snowmobiling and mountain biking. I retired from the Forest Service after a thirty-four year career managing wilderness and recreation on public lands. As a member of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest Planning Team, I am proud to have led the effort to prohibit snowmobiles and mountain bikes from within recommended wilderness. Prior to this change, Region 1 allowed such use within areas recommended for wilderness in the mistaken belief that these activities could be disallowed once such areas were designated as Wilderness. That policy, meant to avoid conflict, was laughable because no way would an area be fairly considered for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System once a constituency of mechanized and/or motorized users became established within it. Over the course of my career, I have witnessed an accretion of motorized and mechanized recreation that has dramatically altered the backcountry scene at great cost to quiet recreation and wildlife. To my way of thinking, opportunities for snowmobiling or mountain biking are not in short supply but areas free from these impacts are. I urge you to protect the Great Burn in its entirety.

Attached is a chapter from my book, *Back to the Trees and Caves - A Wilderness Journey*, soon to be published. In short, following my retirement from the Forest Service in 2012, I embarked upon a solo canoe trip from northern Saskatchewan to Hudson Bay, a trip of 700 miles, intent on discovering real wilderness. This chapter, entitled *In Defense of Muscle Power*, will hopefully give you pause in considering reductions in the Great Burn. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Klein