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Organization:

Title:

Comments: In regards to ,Granite Goose Landscape Restoration Project #63507. I am a local resident of McCall. My family and I love the Payette National Forest and spend much of our free time camping, skiing, mountain biking, fishing, dirt biking, hunting, snowmobiling, and hiking there. Over the years though we keep seeing a common trend. While our non motorized activities seem to remain unchanged, the use of motorized vehicles is consistently limited and regularly discriminated against. Motorized enthusiasts are some of the most helpful people to a forest and usually are the ones that donate much of their time and energy to keep things maintained and trails open. So the question is, unless I am correct to assume we are being unfairly treated, why do we keep losing access to areas? What data supports such decisions to only limit motorized recreation? Is there a business behind this proposal?

The proposal came as a deep shock. The Granite Mtn area represents a special place to so many motorized enthusiasts, especially snowmobiles. We already respectfully share a seasonal closure with a MAJOR DEVELOPER like Brundage mountain, that has closed us out of riding for the sake of a virtually NON EXISTENT cat skiing operation. But we have not let it get to us because we try to understand everyone is trying to share here so we have been ok with working together. Although over the years I have wondered so many times about why does the cat skiing operation get such a large portion of the forest yet they have a fraction of the sized business for how much terrain they are allocated? Has the Forest Service done any studies to know how much terrain is really needed per person for a cat skiing business? Also, if many backcountry skiers already utilize snowmobiles why do we need to have a closure on the terrain the cat skiing outfit has? Isn't it already proven skiers and snowmobiles can recreate in the same area? There is no limitation on skiing in areas the snowmobile guiding companies are allowed to use, but snowmobilers are treated differently. Why is that?

The permanent closure anywhere in our area is crossing a line and I couldn't disagree more with the proposal. Our children learned to ride and continue to ride in the Goose Lake area when they are not at the ski hill. It is what they look forward to each and every year and I fear with how the motorized community is treated, they will not have any open areas left when they are adults. Also, snowmobiling and motorized recreation is a huge part of our community. People travel from all over the country to experience what our forest and our town has to offer. Increasing the amount of parking capacity at trailheads, yet reducing the amount of useable area directly contradicts itself. What would be the driver for a decision like this? I ask you to please not move forward with any closure to motorized recreation anywhere in the National Forest. Your decisions impact lifetimes of families in our area. Thank you.

ATTACHMENT: Image of 2 children on snowmobiles in snow