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Organization: Title:

Comments: Dear Supervisor Jackson:

My comments primarily relate to the Granite Mountain year-round closure. The current restricted area came from the McCall Winter Recreation Forum over 10 years ago. Many things have changed since the restriction was put in place. I believe that the Granite Mountain Closure should be removed now, for the following reasons.

- 1. The closure is not well defined. The lake to the East and the road to the West would be considered a defined boundary. The other boundaries are summer trails or are just a line drawn on the map. These boundaries do not even follow the winter cat roads.
- 2. Without a well-defined boundary it is impossible to patrol and police the closure.
- 3. Everyone knows the current closure is not working. It is especially difficult to explain to the many of out-of-staters that come to McCall to enjoy the outdoors, where the closure is.
- 4. On low snow years the mountain is not open to cat skiing. This closes Grainte Mt to all users with the current restriction. At this time, the cat road is still not cut to the top for cat skiing, but the mountain is closed to snowmobilers.
- 5. In my experience of snowmobiling I have NEVER seen anyone ski from the parking lot 7 miles away to the base of Granite Mt and ski up the mountain. Many backcountry skiers and snowboarders are using snowmobiles now to access the terrain. This was unheard of when the Granite Mt closure was put into effect. Opening Granite to all users would be great for backcountry skiers and snowboarders.
- 6. This closure does not benefit the general public. This closure only benefits a private company and a very few rich skiers at \$500+ per day.
- 7. Why does this closure area go almost 2 miles to the west that is almost never used by the cat ski program? Yes, the road to the west is an easily defined boundary, but why not just use the ridge line? This area is a needless closure.
- 8. Lastly, with the Brundage Master Plan it is likely that snowmobile access will be restricted more as they expand.

Remove the Grainte Mountain Closure, open the mountain to ALL users, not just a very few.