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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Support of Special Recreation Management Areas Proposed Option (SRMA) within the recommended wilderness

I am writing in support of the SRMA within the recommended wilderness (RMA). I have been riding snowmobiles and backcountry skiing in these areas for more than a decade. There are no user conflicts. The only other skiers I have seen have been other friends that have accessed these remote areas on sleds. By not adopting the SRMA..you will see an increase in user conflict as more people are using a smaller area. Also, you will be essentially closing every good backcountry skiing/sledding area in the Lolo pass/Lochsa area. Not to mention Surveyor and Hoodoo areas. Those opposed to the SRMA have mentioned conflicts with such animals as mountain goats. Have never seen any sign of goats anywhere in the backcountry in the middle of winter! Have looked! Especially goat lake area...seems like too much snow for them to me. Have noticed while on a backpacking trip in Glacier they were bothering me in camp! Seems like humans are interacting with them more in the summer or fall trying to shoot them. Apparently Montana fish and game agrees that snowmachines have not had any effect on goat numbers. Snowmachines have a historic use in these areas...just like jet boats and planes did in wilderness areas. The 2012 planning rule does not prohibit over snow use from the RWA. The SRMA needs one major change. Some of the submitted snowmobile areas have been deleted off of the SRMA map. The change needs to be to add Goat lake and surrounding bowls, Blacklead mtn including south facing bowls, Doe creek drainage and surrounding bowls, Deer creek drainage and surrounding bowls need to be added to the Williams Lake cherry stem system access SMAGB2. In additon to the Williams area I frequently ride/ski in areas that have historically been open such as off Beaver ridge/ Shoot areas, Tom Beal area and Elk summit areas. Do not understand at all why these areas are being closed either. Thanks Dan Hoheim