Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/20/2023 6:00:00 AM
First name: Judy
Last name: Erwin
Organization:
Title:
Comments: To whom this may concern,

RE: Kootenai National Forest Over The Snow Motorized Use Travel Plan

All roads open to Year Long Wheeled Vehicles should be open to Over The Snow Vehicles also. When the road conditions are blocked by snow, over the snow vehicles should be allowed. As displayed on the map these are the roads to access areas open to over the snow vehicles and other recreation uses. Hunters and Trappers also will not have access. Access to private residence will also be blocked. According to the project map these roads are restricted all year. This does not co-inside with what is written in the document. Wheeled vehicles can drive the roads all winter, including through Big Game Winter habitat. Why not over the snow vehicles? This will cause the over the snow vehicle operator to violate the law because their vehicle slipped off the open area and touched the closed road prism. Blocking these areas with a restricted road closure makes no since.

For a small example of what is displayed on the planning map, Road 2741 Chicago Peak shows a closure at the last 3 miles to the end. Road 2220 Powerline Road is also closed at the Cabinet Ranger District side entrance but open near the top. Road 1118 Dry Creek is also closed just before the entrance to the open riding area. What is the point for this. This has the appearance of creating a buffer to the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness and proposed wilderness areas which is prohibited according to the subsequent wilderness bill enacted in 1980. Also, there is no Big Game Winter Habitat near Fat man road. Why is road 2292 restricted on the map?

The comments on this project have been difficult to make due to the discrepancies throughout the maps and July document. I cannot be supported of this plan as it stands. I am hopeful the documents can be cleaned up and clearified and people will have another chance to comment.