

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/10/2017 7:00:00 AM

First name: Drew

Last name: Pogge

Organization: Montana Alpine Adventures

Title: Owner

Comments: Hello,

My name is Drew Pogge, and I'm a Bozeman resident, recreator, and owner of a backcountry ski guiding service that operates in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF. After reviewing the initial publication, it is apparent that the Custer-Gallatin needs additional winter guide services in the greater Bozeman area to meet demand for non-motorized winter recreation. This will allow more people to experience the winter backcountry setting safely, without increasing natural impacts, along with encouraging stewardship and responsible backcountry travel.

I have been seeking an additional ski guiding permit in the Gallatin for years. As of now, there are only 1,500 user days allotted to backcountry skiing—the fastest growing segment in the ski industry for the last decade. Compared with 11,000 days for high-impact snowmobiling, and even 5,750 for rock climbing (a far more niche guided activity than backcountry skiing), backcountry skiing is grossly underrepresented. Increasing skiing user days will not only even the distribution of motorized to non-motorized use, but increase winter accessibility to a greater number of low-impact, non-motorized recreationalists who lack the skill to safely access these areas on their own. There is plenty of demand for these services.

Thank you for your time. I hope the Custer-Gallatin can find a way to better balance motorized to non-motorized winter use, while providing the ever-growing numbers of backcountry skiers the guiding and educational services they want and need. Montana Alpine Adventures would love to provide those services in the Gallatin at the earliest possible opportunity.

Thank you,

Drew

Drew Pogge

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