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Comments: I am very supportive of the proposed action map because I was nearly killed by a snowmobile in the Bards Bowl area on February 6th, 2016 while backcountry skiing. Access to Bards Bowl is right off of Hwy 4 near the Lake Alpine winter closure gate. The area is closed to snowmobiles by a handshake agreement but because the forest plan was never implemented it is not legally closed and there is no signage or patrolling. The Bee Gulch/Round Valley/Poison Canyon/Bards Bowl terrain is very challenging with blind drops and limited visibility and it is very popular for human-powered activities due to its easy-access from Hwy 4. It is therefore impossible to combine vehicle and human-powered activity in this small area - tantamount to putting a kids' playground directly on the highway.

On February 6th, 2016 my husband, my dogs, and I were traveling up Bards Bowl on our skis (skinning) and heard a snowmobile approaching above us. We couldn't see the snowmobile and the driver couldn't see us. We yelled that we were below but, of course, a snowmobile engine is extremely loud so the driver didn't hear us. Because neither party had knowledge of the others' location and things happened so quickly protective actions were impossible. Miraculously, with two humans and two dogs lined up across the hill beneath, the snowmobile driver blindly leaped off the ridge into the small sliver of space we were not in. A serious and potentially fatal accident was avoided although the odds were 1 out of 5 for survival.

The idea being proposed by snowmobile advocacy groups of "no action" is unacceptable. They can easily use their machines to journey further out on Hwy 4 rather than being in the small area near the sno-park where all of the human-powered activities are occurring (including children sledding). It is not acceptable that a fun day out could end in a death that could be prevented by closing off a small area with signage and patrolling.