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First name: Jon

Last name: Devino

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am concerned about the Clearwater National Forest over snow travel plan. I have snowmobiled Clearwater Forest for the past fifteen years. I have always enjoyed accessing the Great Burn areas that are their for people to enjoy. The Clearwater forests new travel plan would keep me and all other people from enjoying these areas. Now, with the new travel plan, I am unable to enjoy the Great Burn and the unique riding opportunities it offers. Most wildlife have migrated down to lower elevations in the winter. The new travel plan would force more people into those winter range areas. The areas included in the closures are high elevation, where there is little if any wildlife activity. It seems that the sensible idea would be to encourage riding in these areas, not outlawing it. Snowmobiles have no environmental impact on the land. All trace of activity is gone when the snow melts. There is no basis of fact for closing these areas to snowmobiling. Snowmobiling has not increased much if any at these areas in the past decade due to poor parking areas and no groomed trails. There is no conflict with other users because the only way to get to most of these areas is with a snowmobile. There is also a vast wilderness areas to the south of the Great Burn to accommodate those users. The money generated by snowmobilers in area towns surrounding the forest is significant boost to the small local economies in these lean times. I will close by asking you to help keep open these historic snowmobile areas affected by the travel plan for the Clearwater National Forest. Please keep the Great Burn and open to snowmobiling. Thank you.