

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/17/2018 11:00:00 AM
First name: John
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests,

Please accept my letter of support for motorized over snow travel in the "Great Burn" portions of the National Forest.

I used to be one of the more avid riders of this area prior to the revised travel plan thus no longer allowing over snow travel.

We've been denied the right to ride a snowmobile in an area that has not been designated Wilderness. A Wilderness Study Area governed under the same rule as Wilderness is unfair.

In all of the years of me snowmobiling in the Great Burn Area not once had I ran into, seen, and or heard about anyone else using the Great Burn Area besides snowmobilers. To my knowledge snowmobilers were the only winter time users of the area. User conflicts never existed.

Snowmobiles leave no trace of activity once the snow melts away as we're riding on many feet of snow not inches.

With feet of snow I've never seen animals where we ride as they've all moved to lower winter ranges where food and shelter are easier to come by thus giving them a greater chance of survival based on their inherited instincts. So any concerns of snowmobile/animal conflicts during the winter season is non-existent.

If there is or was ever a concern that the Great Burn area had the potential to become over populated with daily use of snowmobilers I can assure you that this area that we were so privileged to explore has a way of self purging most would be users just by way of geographical location, the lack of amenities, and the lack of easy accessibility.

All who have ever explored the Great Burn Area on a snowmobile would tell you that this area is a very special place. One where the sheer beauty and vastness is sacred to us likewise as I would assume it would be with any user anytime of the year.

If ever given the chance to ride the Great Burn again I can assure you that this Great Place that we call The Great Burn Area has ALL of the snowmobilers upmost respect for the land, the plants, the animals, and any other winter time users.

In summary I support over snow travel in the Great Burn Area.

Please pass this letter on to all whom it may concern.

Thanks,

John Cowan

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