

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/16/2018 7:00:00 AM

First name: Linda

Last name: Corder

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I wish to comment on a recreational trails aspect of this project.

In the Little Bear Basin Nordic Ski Area is a network of snowshoe trails that have been in use for several years. The purpose of these trails is to provide snowshoers an attractive recreational area that is near, but separate from the Nordic ski trails to prevent conflicts between the two forms of recreation.

I have worked as a volunteer snowshoe trail "groomer" since the establishment of this recreation area. At the time of application for a recreation permit we had established a small network of snowshoe trails that were evaluated under the Environmental Assessment (EA) and permitted, becoming system trails. In the ensuing years the popularity of snowshoeing has continued to increase and a number of user-created trails have evolved in the area.

The Payette Lakes Ski Club has improved mapping of the existing trails and requested expansion of the snowshoe trail system in recent years. We were not allowed to expand the trail system because new trails had not be evaluated under the EA and were not defined in the permit.

I believe the public would benefit from an expansion of the snowshoe trail system in the Little Bear Basin recreation area. Specific locations of additional trails under the names "Jim Bridger" trail and "John Coulter" trail are recorded with the Payette Lakes Ski Club request for trails that was denied. The "Grand Traverse" and "Westy" trails, which are permitted for summer mountain bike use are heavily used by snowshoers, but are not permitted. These trails should also be considered for inclusion in the area's trail system.

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to comment and for considering these suggestions in the Granite Meadows Project.