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Organization: Presidential Range Riders Snowmobile Club

Title: President

Comments: Re: Comments on Peabody West Integrated Resource Project

Ranger Barnhart and NEPA:

Please accept this letter as the formal input from the Presidential Range Riders Snowmobile Club of Gorham, NH (PRRSMC). We support the overall scope of this project however we are opposed to the relocation of the Bear Springs snowmobile trail.

The existing Bear Springs snowmobile trail has been in use for many years, from what we can gather at least since 1971. The "Wildlife Opening" was originally cut in 1998 at 6 acres and then enlarged in 2006 to 21.9 acres. In hindsight I believe the Wildlife Opening was put in the wrong area alongside an active snowmobile trail that is also used all seasons from mountain bikers to hikers and hunters. This historic trail should remain where it is and the "Wildlife Opening" should be left alone to grow back in. It may be a better idea to put the "Wildlife Opening" to the proposed area of the reroute of the snowmobile trail away from people using the trail for all types of recreation.

We would also be opposed to this trail or any sections of it be closed for winter harvesting. As mentioned, this trail is very popular with snowmobilers and would be a loss not to have the use of it for even one season. We would also expect that if this trail does get relocated that the NH Bureau of Trails along with our club (PRRSMC) will be involved in the trail building process and planning, so it is built to current standards of a snowmobile trail.

Please reconsider your proposed plan on the Bear Spring Trail to save our original trail. I do have some other ideas that may also work to achieve what you are trying to accomplish. If you are interested in hearing them, please feel free to contact me anytime.