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Organization:

Title:

Comments: If pushed to select a single alternative that is offered, I would select alternative X to eliminate the the RWA completely. But I understand you will likely try to create a plan for all to be content with.

I was a wild land fire fighter on the Superior Ranger District for years. I support the idea of increasing logging through out the area to help bring back some of the local economy to Mineral county as it is one of the poorest counties in Montana and is nowhere near what it used to be. And I fully understand as you do forests that are not managed (logged, thinned, prescribed burnt) will grow out of control and sooner or later a fire will decimate the area. When all could have been avoided by properly managing a forest. This is the main problem I have with the RWA in this area. I am just as much an environmentalist as the people I know will protest any changes to the plan and would love to make this a Wilderness area. But I don't think a lot of these people understand good, healthy, forest management. And as far as I understand it, even if the RWA is removed it is still ultimately up to the forest where, and how heavily things will be logged and does not mean that the popular trails around hoodoo state line trail or the fish creek area will be logged heavily. especially considering how difficult these areas are to get to. It is just sad that the local people who live and work around our small towns are the people that suffer. Just so that an area can have a name designation and people from hours or hundreds of miles away can come and look at our mountains. but they can still do the same things and enjoy the same scenery but we can still help the dying small town economies by opening the logging back up.

I am also an avid snowmobiler and have been riding the Hoodoo area since I was 12 years old. I never understood why so much of the area was closed down to snowmobilers. I have never in all my years snowmobiling in that area seen a single animal up in the state line area. The Moose, Sheep, Wolves, all migrate to the lower elevations where the snow pack is much shallower (where we don't and can't ride) and have only seen them during the winter down in the lower elevations. so you could imagine my confusion when I was young and told that we were not allowed in that area because of the hibernating animals that are 12ft under the snow (unsure if that is true just what i was told). I understand the summer restrictions of no off-road use with the dirt erosion from destroying plant life. But there is no such thing with a snowmobile. Hoodoo recieves an impressive amount of snowpack of 10-12ft easily in a year and no damage comes to any of the environment we ride in. And we are adimate that what we pack in, is what we pack out. There is no trace of us even a day or two after we have been in an area in a lot of cases. There is no place like Hoodoo for amazing winter scenery. I have been to many areas such as McCall ID, Cooke City MT, the Big Hole near Dillon MT, and nothing compares to the beauty and seclusion of the Hoodoo area. That is why we ride. To get away and enjoy the area and soak it all in and challenge ouselves to see areas that we have never seen before. Much like a hiker would do in the summertime. And i would understand their frustration if there were vehicles running around everywhere in the summer. But there is no one else in these areas in the wintertime up on the state line. 5 times I have seen cross-country skiers on the road up to Hoo-doo. And the furthest up I have ever seen them is the pass and they turned around. And we are curious and slow down and wave to them. They are there to enjoy the scenery and challenge just as we are. We are not there to be disruptive and damage the environment, we are there to enjoy the beauty and seclusion just as hikers are in the summer. Some can not get to these areas in the summer like my father for example. there is no way he could hike into some of these areas and would never get to enjoy these areas if it weren't for snowmobiling. With it closed down he will never get to see the areas i've seen in the summer and enjoy them. I am all for everyone getting to enjoy the Hoodoo area, the byciclists, hikers, skiers, 4x4's, and snowmobiles. It has seemed that the rule has been forever that people on foot who are capable can go anywhere and do anything and any mechanized modes of transport are left out to dry with nowhere to go other than a forest service road and never get to see the best MT and ID have to offer. I would like to see that change so all can enjoy. Also the snowmobiling up Hoodoo brings in people from Idaho and Washington and helps to support the town of superior. In the high time of the winter you can drive by Durango's or the local motel and see it is packed with snowmobiliers. it is the sole winter tourism for Superior, and really helps to support the struggling small town economy.

When it boils down to it I would be thrilled if the RWA was removed from the whole area as the Forest Service still decides where to log, put roads, trails, ect. So you would still control the scenic areas. But I understand if your wanting to keep some of the RWA designation to keep certain people/groups happy. I just don't understand those people who would keep the enjoyment of these beautiful areas away from the rest of us. We don't diminish anything in these areas, and want to keep this area pristine and beautiful just as they do. We just want a piece of the enjoyment as well.

In closing at the very least I would like to see the snowmobiling to be opened up to all areas as we cause no damage to the environment and would make it possible for people to see areas that they would otherwise never see in their life. I would also like to see the logging increased in all the areas to help the small towns of MT and ID as they struggle more and more to not loose population, and struggle with poverty as time progress's. It would bring new increased revenue to the small towns and reduce the devastation of wildfires in the summer and result in a healthier forest. Please do not leave the mechanized community or the small towns where people live, work, and love the forest out in the cold. As that has seemed to be the status quo in this area for as long as i can remember.

Thank you,