

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/17/2020 4:37:30 PM

First name: Andrew

Last name: Mills

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a snowmobiler, snow bike rider, and OHV rider that frequently travels to riding areas in Idaho, Wyoming and Montana. The National Forests provide recreation opportunities for myself, my family, and my friends. We primarily use these forest areas with motorized winter recreation on over snow vehicles, but also travel for OHV trails as well.

The Great Burn, or the Hoodoo Roadless Area, is a unique winter recreation area for us. It provides us with an experience of solitude, challenge and often untouched snow due to the low riding pressure in this area. There is no environmental damage posed by OSV use in the Great Burn. This area provides a unique experience that cannot be found anywhere else in the Nez-Clear or the Panhandle. Over snow vehicle activity should also be permitted throughout West Meadow Creek area.

In the summer months, we recreate on OHV trails. I encourage the Forest to avoid road and trail decommissioning at every opportunity. I understand resource issues may sometimes present a problem for OHV routes. But destroying a route is the least preferred action. Considerable consideration to repair, improvement or reconstruction should be the first priority, followed by exploring opportunities for route relocation. Local clubs and users, like myself, are more than willing to help with these activities to keep routes open. We need more motorized recreation areas in the Forest, not less. The DEIS itself states there is a need for increased opportunities for motorized recreation in the front country and in the backcountry, during both summer and winter seasons. Data suggests that more than one-half of the recreational use of this forest is related to motorized recreation. See Table 2, Chapter 3, DEIS (showing data for NPC visits as 37.9% for driving for pleasure, 7.2% for motorized trail use, 5.2% for OHV use, 2.6% for OSV use, and 0.5% for other motorized uses). With this much motorized use, and the fact that motorized sport activity is increasing each year as populations age, increased opportunities are needed to avoid congestion.

The federal government owns and controls a majority of the land base in the counties where the Forest lies. Local communities depend upon travelers like myself, my family, and my friends that come here for the motorized recreation experience in the Forest. Annual motorized recreation expenditures in the seven affected counties average \$62,665,104, and those expenditures generate upwards of \$2.3 Billion annually to local GDP. My recreation dollars are part of that and depend on a forest that is friendly to my recreational choices.