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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to support a semi-primitive (winter motorized use) designation for the current RWA in the Great Burn RWA, specifically the Hoodoo and Surveyor areas. I feel that allowing access to snowmobiles, snowbikes, and mountain bikes is a good compromise between recreational enjoyment and preserving the "wildness" of the area. I do not however, support creating any additional RWAs.

Over-snow vehicles do not disturb the terrain below the snow. When the snow melts, the evidence of motorized over-snow travel disappears. The snotel site at hoodoo basin regularly has over 8 feet of snow between February and May. Wildlife in the area would not survive with this snow depth, therefore, it leaves seasonally to access food at lower elevations. I have snowmobiled my whole life and rarely see large wildlife, and when I do, it is at lower elevations near trailheads.

I grew up in Montana and return in the winters to responsibly enjoy winter recreation. Many areas that are accessible by snowmobile are not accessible by any other means of transportation in the winter. These previously mentioned areas are simply not being enjoyed to their full potential during the winter and early spring. Snowmobiling is a huge part of my life, and I would love to see a relaxation in motorized access regulations in this area and many others. I hope to see continued access and responsible enjoyment of snowmobiling so that future generations can enjoy winter recreation as I do.

Thank you for your considerations.