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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern:

My name is Tim Koerner. I first started recreating in the Great Burn in the late 80's. One of my first trips was snowmobiling in the hoodoo pass area. I also did a mountain bike packing trip from fish lake to Siamese lakes on the state line trail. I moved to Alaska in the early 90's and when I moved back. I gravitated to the Great burn, mainly because it was big and wild. I did a lot of snowmobiling in the great burn and lots of mountain biking. These have been my main forms of recreating in the area. I have hunted some and ran some rivers in the area. My main reason for writing this letter, is to insure I can still do those activities in the area. I have mainly accessed the area from the I-90 corridor.

I understand you folks have some big decisions to make and no matter what decisions you come up with, people will be upset. For that, you have my respect and I wish you well. One thing that I have been doing in the past 20 years, is riding areas, that I won't be able to ride anymore. As the forest and travel plans change in the greater Idaho, Montana region, more and more wild places are being shut down to recreation. So I have traveled to them, to get one last ride in.

One of these mountain bike rides on the state line trail is hoodoo pass to goose lake and out goose creek trail. A couple of years ago this was a legal ride, then it was not. I have also rode from hoodoo pass to fish lake via the stateline trail and out to cedars campground. This was a full day ride. One of the great things about the great burn is: it gives you a chance to see what you are made of. I am not advocating red bull rampage, but man needs a place to test themselves, and the great burn allowed some on to do that. We still need places like that. Another activity I liked to do in the great burn was snowmobile. I just truly love the sport. I consider myself a human powered athlete whose favorite activity is snowmobiling. The great burn is an awesome place to ride. The cross country riding in there is excellent, allowing you to learn to navigate difficult backcountry and get some great big rides in there. Once again, people need a place to challenge themselves.

Personally the Great burn is a place that needs a new designation. One that allows the protection of the place, but still allows for some use. A place that you can still use a chainsaw to clear trail, but let fire burn if it fits the objectives. One that allows winter motorized and mountain bikes in the summer. One that prevents logging and mining, but still allows people to go in it.

In the end, I wish you luck, and that you allow me to ride my bike and snowmobile in the great burn.

Thanks

Tim Koerner

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho