

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/18/2020 2:03:56 PM

First name: Anon

Last name: mtmaiden2017@aol.com

Organization:

Title:

Comments: DEIS Great Burn Comments

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support the no-action alternative with the following changes:

- * The Hoodoo area shall be designated as a semi-primitive motorized area instead of an RWA, and
- * Access shall be limited to snowmobiles, snow bikes, and mountain bikes (motorized vehicles designed with an intent to be mobilized in the snow with a track designed to be used in the snow), and
- * North Fork Spruce-White Sands and Sneakfoot Meadows RWA shall be eliminated.

Growing up in Montana has been a dream come true. Every day I am reminded of how lucky I am to live in such a beautiful state. After realizing there is a lot more to back country access than waiting in lines at ski resorts, my family started riding snowmobiles at an early age. I am more aware of the dangers that are killing a sport that I hold dear to my heart, back country snowmobiling. The status quo is threatening to ELIMINATE all multi-use travel into some of the most beautiful and magnificent backcountry snowmobiling across Montana for reasons that are political and unconstitutional. 40 years is long enough to study WSA areas. It is TIME for congress to decide! Closing most WSA's to all forms of motorized and mechanized recreational access has denied historic uses of the land that were permitted by the 1977 Montana Wilderness Study Act. In addition, closing all motorized recreation has had a substantial negative impact on the local economy. Look at the amount of people who travel from across the country to a town like Cooke city, MT? Or Revelstoke, BC? Those towns are known worldwide for vast country to explore on snowmobiles and it attracts a wealthy demographic of individuals who love to spend money on all the fancy new equipment and brand new truck/trailer each year. The Forest Service own recommendations that many WSA's do not meet wilderness criteria alone, enough basis for WSA repeal. Montana has over 3 million acres of designated wilderness without counting the 2 million acres in WSA' which is 3 acres of designated wilderness for each individual living in Montana.

Snowmobile use is the least impactful of any back-country recreation! Over the last 10-15 years I have watched the amount of terrain open to over the snow use dwindle at an alarming rate. Snowmobile access into WSA's allows people who are not physically able to access the country under their own power, to enjoy everything the mountains of Western Montana have to offer.

PUBLIC LAND SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ALL THE PUBLIC NOT JUST SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The outcome of not supporting this would disallow access of rights to all types of uses to the public. By banning the use of motorized snow and track vehicles in this area, diminishes the right to use public land, by the way, we as tax paying citizens choose to use our public land.

Our family has snowmobiled the Hoodoo/Surveyor area for years. We have treated that land with respect and love. We cherish the land, admire it's beauty and would hate to lose the opportunity to continue to do so because a group of environmental activist misconstrues our beliefs take our rights away from us.

I believe environmental activists are more focused on pushing their agenda than doing what is best for all tax paying citizens. The activists try and "back door" rules and regulations that WILL end up denying access to a large portion of the backcountry to a LARGE demographic of tax payers. Many of which

would be unable to enjoy Montanas beautiful and pristine mountains.

Please do the right thing and keep our family activities fair for all whom enjoy the great out doors.

Sincerely,

Jeff Johnson