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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Clearwater NF Great Burn re-opening request comment

To whom it may concern,

I have ridden the historic Great Burn snowmobile area for many years. In that period of time I have not seen any sign of environmental damage from snowmobiling. The snow is extremely deep. I have never seen anyone other than a snowmobiler back in the Great Burn so there is obviously no conflict with other users. In my years of riding in the Great Burn I have never seen a goat. The riders that I have talked to that have seen goats say they are indifferent to our presence.

It is apparent to me after attending many meeting about the closure of the Great Burn that the reason it is closed is because a few forest service personnel don't like snowmobiles for whatever reason. It has nothing to do with goats, user conflict or environmental damage.

I am 73 years old retired physical therapist. My kids and I ride sleds a lot. I am an avid environmentalist and wouldn't consider doing anything that would damage the environment. Please focus your efforts on better forest management for prevention of wildfires. Cut out dead and dying trees. Selective cut mature trees and you won't have large polluting and deadly fires. Money made can be used to control erosion and keep roads open so efficient, less expensive and safer fire control can be used when fires do occur. I have to live in a valley that gets all the smoke from these uncontrolled fires. We lucked out last fall.

Thank you very much,

Johan G. Olson

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