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Comments: Nez Perce / Clearwater Forest Plan Revision

I support the No Action Alternative but I do not support the RWA designation on the Hoodoo area. This needs to be changed to a semi-primitive motorized area and allow snowmobiles and snowbike in the winter time and mountain bikes in the summertime. The North Fork Spruce - White sands and Sneakfoot Meadows RWA's should be eliminated. In the No Action Alternative the Hoodoo area would stay the same size as it is today RWA expansion in alternatives W and Z do not meet the criteria for Recommended Wilderness. Snowmobilers have been snowmobiling in the Hoodoo area since the mid 1970's. The Hoodoo area is also an historical snowmobiling area and should be left open for snowmobiling for the next generation to enjoy. Snowmobilers like to ride the Hoodoo area for the challenge and scenery and solitude that the area has to offer. Snowmobiling in the Hoodoo area doesn't destroy or diminish the wilderness character of the area.

Snowmobilers travel from Idaho and Washington to snowmobile the Hoodoo area. They put money into the town of Superior MT local economy. They buy their gas and food at the local fast food places and eat in the restaurants. The Mountain Goats that are up by Heart Lake, Pearl Lake, Dalton Lake (Montana side of the Hoodoo) are there in the summer time, but when winter starts they move down the Trout Creek drainage to Landowner mtn. and the Eagle Rock area to winter. Snowmobilers can't access Landowner Mtn. It's too rocky and rugged. On the Montana side of the Great Burn (Hoodoo) the Heart Lake trail has bridges across certain streams and we just found out awhile back from the RAC committee that they funded money to have 2 outhouses installed or built at Heart Lake. I think the average snowfall for Hoodoo is 120 to 130 inches of snow each year and mountain goats can't winter in that much snow and there's nothing for them to eat up that high at around 6000 ft. cause it's all buried under the snow.

The DEIS refers to the Hoodoo area as the last best place for a high alpine riding area. That's why the Hoodoo area should be left open to snowmobiling. The only other place that compares to the Hoodoo area is Revelstoke BC. Snowmobilers leave no trace or impact on the land when the snow melts our tracks are gone. The Nez Perce and Clearwater Forest already has about 1.1 million acres of wilderness. Idaho has 4.8 million acres of Wilderness and 9,000,000 acres of inventoried Roadless. We have enough wilderness it's time for a change. The Fish Lake trail allows motorbikes and 4-wheelers and side by sides in the summer time but doesn't allow snowmobile use in the winter time. That doesn't make any sense. The Hoodoo area needs to be left open for snowmobiling and the RWA status needs to be changed to a semi-primitive motorized area. RWA means defective wilderness.