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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Big Snowies Wilderness Study Area (WSA)

? Issue: Thank you for recommending Wilderness (RW) for a large portion of the Big Snowies WSA. This area is important for water quality, wildlife, and solitude. However, the western boundary, as proposed, is not sufficient to protect the wild character and existing traditional uses in this remarkable area. The trails on the south slope of the Big Snowies, and one of the trails from Crystal Lake to the Ice Caves, are steep foot and stock trails that should be included in the recommended Wilderness. Other uses such as mountain biking in this area is minimal to non-existent. West peak also provides a better physical boundary.

? Objection: I object to the boundaries for the recommended Wilderness in the Draft Record of Decision (DROD).

? Remedy: The Neil Creek Trail(#654), Blake Creek Trail (#655), and Timber Creek trail (#676) should be included in RW. The Crystal Cascades Trail (#445 and #445a) should also be included in the RW and the boundary aligned with the existing snowmobile area The trail from Crystal Lake to the Ice Caves (#493) should be included in RW. The trail from Crystal Lake to West Peak and west should be included in the Grandview Recreation Area (#403, #490). This would provide an opportunity for a good ride for mountain bikers if trail maintenance is complete on trail #490, west of West Peak, and on trail #483 (Dry Pole Creek)