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Comments: I am vice president of the Priest Lake Nordic Club, actively involved with cross country ski trail grooming, maintenance and procurement of equipment. Two of our trail systems are covered in the proposed OSV winter travel plan, Chipmunk Rapids and Hanna Flats. Motorized vehicles have been banned at Chipmunk for years and we have had no issues with conflicts between skiers and OSVs. However, at Hanna we have been plagued by periodic conflicts.

As an all-volunteer club we are able to groom our trails weekly or at most twice weekly. Laying down packed corduroy and tracks is a time-consuming process, but it takes only a few seconds for a snow machine to destroy our work. Most of the problems have occurred along and north of the Ravin Ranch Road. This road is not part of the groomed snowmobile trail system but is used by two property owners for access and also by recreational snowmobiles. Several times each year significant sections of the groomed trail north of this road, Kinnickinnick trail, are destroyed. Given your recent proposal we will be enabled to block off the Ravin Ranch Road to all OSV traffic except the property owners. At a minimum we will be able to place gates or bollards at the trail entrances to prevent access.

The airstrip is labeled green to allow motorized vehicles year-round. The airstrip is the sight of numerous events during the winter such as the vintage snowmobile races. We have absolutely no problem with this designation. In fact, we would recommend that the year-round designation be extended to the Hanna Flats Road to allow for future expansion of parking for these events. Currently the parking along Ravin Ranch Road is frequently congested to the point that skiers cannot gain access to the trail system. Thank you for considering our suggestions.

James Lea

Priest Lake Nordic Club