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First name: Cody

Last name: Telford

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a life long resident of Idaho and having lived in Sandpoint for 6 years, I see a few very negative impacts with the current OSV travel plan.

Parts that I agree with, managing the use of our public land to preserve the nature and wildlife for generations to come. The main issue with this proposal is not letting us currently enjoy the nature and wildlife we have today.

This area has pretty gloomy winters until late winter and early spring time, With that comes those blue bird days and warmer weather that lets us fully enjoy the beautiful terrain and access we have the privilege living close to. With the closure happening March 31, that cuts off the best part of our chance to get out and enjoy what we have. We typically have our best, most enjoyable ride days in to April and sometimes in to May. We need to at least compromise and move that date to May 1.

I understand the need to protect bears and wildlife. One thing that needs to be understood, with the cost of snowmobiles and other over snow vehicles being so high, the type of enthusiast these days are not the teenager hooligan that is going to chase and destroy wildlife on a motorized vehicle. The demographic that is riding snowmobiles and other vehicles has greatly matured over the last few decades and are more respectable, have more money, and are willing to donate to causes to save wildlife. Snowmobilers now days just don't chase wildlife like they did in the 80's. And I don't know a single one that would chase a Grizzly bear, that would be just crazy.

The selection of the date seems to come arbitrarily and not any hard set rule on how it effect wildlife, it needs to be later, because March 31 cuts the season in half. December there just isn't enough snow and January and February are just gloomy. We have been blessed with a beautifully area to enjoy and shutting that down to the public, who actually owns the land, is out right wrong.

Another note, why are we closing an area for Caribou when there are no documented Caribou living there. In hopes that they might come back, that is ridiculous, if they come back, then shut down the area, as i am all for protecting wildlife, but there needs to be a reason.

Think of those that can't access those area without the use of a motorized vehicle, due to health issues, is that not discrimination?