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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To open my comment it is important to disclose that I work in the recreational snow machine industry, I am a winter power sports enthusiast, a hunter, and a conservationist.

I understand the need to protect sensitive species and would like to participate. I think an alternative idea, as opposed to the closure of our public lands, would be to partner with the OSV community in providing education with the goal of collaboration on caring for our natural resources and wildlife. I would speculate that most participants in winter powersports are lovers of our public lands and the animals that call it home. In addition, the cost of winter powersports attracts a community of people that not only have expendable income but are educated and invest annually in education regarding back country riding and avalanche skills.

Including the OSV members and empowering them with education and information that can protect these sensitive species is not only a way to keep our public lands open from our perspective but additionally it gives us the opportunity to help protect the wildlife and land we love.

In opposition, the closure of our public land in the name of protecting these sensitive species not only alienates the OSV community but creates animosity towards them. I think it more likely that you would lose a group of people that love, care for, and I speculate would financially and physically support the protection of these species.

I would propose setting up educational meetings / fundraisers that the OSV community could participate in and collaborate to ensure that our opportunities to use public lands and these species are protected.

Lastly, the effects of this proposed closure would have impacts upon many facets of our community including hospitality, powersports dealers, powersports manufacturing, service industries, and tourism.

Thank you,
Derek Stegemoller