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Comments: Preliminary letter protesting lack of public notification of the Aug. 30 zoom meeting.

1. The USFS stated that they would be doing an EIS not an EA, now they have reneged on the EIS.
2. There was a public zoom meeting Aug. 30. I am on the mailing list, why were people not notified?
3. The proposal is huge and poorly thought out. I am asking for a 90 day extension on comments so site specific details can be analyzed and discussed.
4. The USFWS has been sued by Conservation Biology Center in relation to the delayed listing of whitebark pine and other species. Please defer action on this project until the Court decides on the listing issue. This will help build a better alternative and reduce potential for litigation when WBP is listed.
5. The "collaborative" does not represent the opinions of people of the US which all have a right to comment and be involved in the process. This questionable local involvement first will result in more controversy due to the poor choice of areas and timing and lack of national involvement.

Winter Motorized Rec Proposed Alternative; an Environmental Apocalypse

The North Zone Winter Recreation proposal, developed by a "collaboration" of pro-motorized recreation groups will severely impact endangered, candidate and sensitive species including the grizzly bear, Canada lynx, whitebark pine, wolverine, fisher and species such as wolves, elk, fisher, whitetail and mule deer. I was appalled by the actions of Idaho Conservation League and Friends of Scotchman Peaks. They support snowmobiles mowing down whitebark pines, a candidate ESA species and high marking, impacting grizzly bear and wolverine denning habitat.

The collaborators support bear year (when grizzlies are out of their den) snowmobiling in the Roman Nose and Moose Lake area impacting female grizzlies with cubs which stay near their snow-covered den site after they emerge. Whitebark pines would be further exposed to damage with the melting spring snowpack. Can you imagine that the Friends of Scotchman Peaks has a goat ambassador and yet supports this proposal that impacts goats traveling along and utilizing ridgelines?

Upper Pack River will be opened to snowmobiles impacting winter hiking, xc skiing and snowshoeing activities. Why do non-motorized trail users have to sacrifice their trails to snow machines? Winter Wildlands Alliance "Giving Solitude a Voice" had little to say in support of non-motorized recreation. Ridgelines that separate restricted from open areas will allow violations by snowmobilers trying to string a route along the ridge. It is doubtful that the machines would only stay on the legal side of steep ridgelines while trying to snake a path along the ridge. Trapping access will increase, potentially impacting gray wolf, lynx, fisher and grizzly bears. Grizzly bears lose feet and toes from wolf and pine marten traps. The Scoping Notice does not even mention impacts on wildlife, whitebark pine or wetlands in an attempt to hide damages to the environment.

We are in a climate crisis. Decreasing snowpack will exacerbate the competition between wildlife and over snow recreation. This "proposed alternative" is not supported by true green conservation groups who care about the Cabinets and Selkirks and their flora and fauna. Snowmobile use was partially responsible for the loss of our Selkirk Caribou herd. We do not want to lose more species.