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Comments: My comments are in response to the plan, over concerns for wildlife impact, to begin cutting off over the snow vehicle travel at the end of March in existing areas that allow year-round travel. Namely the areas around Trestle Creek, Pack River and Roman Nose.

While avalanche and snow condition concerns are certainly part of what we take into consideration in riding these areas, wildlife encounters have not been an issue. When and if riders encounter wildlife, they are all very appreciative to experience it and the opportunity to share are public lands with some of its oldest stewards. Respect and courtesy as well as self preservation dictates a wide bearth and allowing quite passage during any encounters.

Restricting additional travel days unnecessarily in what has turned into later and later riding seasons in recent years will only serve to overcrowd other areas being adjusted for year round travel. And because those areas don't offer a compelling of riding in the late season, people seeking rideable snow will be compressed into a much smaller area than the map suggests by its boundaries.

Perhaps a simple info board can be used to show localized areas of concern for hibernating bears to allow voluntary avoidance.

With the continued expansion of bear numbers and range, strategies that allow us to coexist will serve us better than those that put us at odds with their population through expanding area closures. People love wildlife, but relegating access to public lands and resources at an increasing rate is creating a challenging public sentiment over wildlife populations.

We need to be able to cohabitate.