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Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the SDEIS. As a Big Creek/Edwardsburg cabin owner I frequently travel to and from Big Creek to Yellow Pine and Cascade in the winter. My use is both recreation and required maintenance of the Big Creek property.

I have three concerns on the transportation access described in the SDEIS:

1) There is insufficient safe winter turnaround and parking at the Stibnite/Big Creek Road intersection. The increased winter Stibnite traffic will exacerbate an already dangerous situation. A larger flat area, suitable for truck/trailer turnaround and extended winter parking is required. Currently vehicles and trailers are forced into unsafe roadside parking near the intersection. The existing small turnaround area past Profile Creek is dominated by Perpetua trucks and snowplow turnaround requirements. There is no safe area to park the number of vehicles that stage to access Big Creek in winter. The transportation plan needs to be updated to include expanded, safe extended period, parking at the Stibnite Rd/Big Creek Rd intersection.

2) Closing the public winter access to upper Johnson Creek Rd with no snowmobile/tracked ATV alternative impacts both travel safety and cherished recreational opportunities. Johnson Creek is the preferred winter tracked vehicle access to Yellow Pine and Big Creek. Without grooming of another similar route, tracked vehicle access from Warm Lake to Wapiti and Yellow Pine is effectively eliminated. EFSF road is not safe or passable on tracks due to road ice, traffic, and limited turnouts. Lick Creek Road from McCall is also not safe most of the winter. Ultimately there will be serious, if not terminal, impacts to the few but critical Yellow Pine businesses working incredibly hard to survive. I am concerned that 3 years of no tracked vehicle access from Warm Lake will severely impact some winter businesses in Yellow Pine leaving no services for 6 months of the year.

3) Elimination of Johnson Creek winter access with no alternative also exacerbates the parking/turnaround problem at Stibnite/Big Creek Rd intersection in #1 above. Without a tracked access option from Landmark every user trying to get to Big Creek will be forced to drive - most likely towing a utility or toy box trailer that will need to be parked at the Stibnite/Big Creek Rd intersection. The transportation plan needs to be updated to include a safe winter alternative to Upper Johnson Creek Rd travel for tracked vehicles.

While the extensive project planning is appreciated, the winter transportation and access plan has not previously provided the visibility or detail to foresee these negative impacts. I ask that the transportation plan be updated with 1) expanded winter parking/turnaround near the Big Creek Rd/Stibnite Rd intersection and 2) a viable public winter travel route for tracked vehicles similar to the existing option using Johnson Creek Road.

Thank you,

Michael Gerringer
Big Creek Resident