

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/24/2023 11:47:26 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to strongly encourage the proposed "winter closure to over-snow vehicle use near the Bear Basin Nordic Ski area to include the Payette Lake Ski Club permit boundary (approximately 1,399 acres)" to be adopted. The Bear Basin Nordic trails are a great resource for our community and a driver of tourism which brings money into the area.

Every year there are conflicts among the users of the Nordic trails and snowmobilers. The local snowmobile association has been supportive of keeping snowmobilers out of the Nordic trails and even helped pay for signs that tell snowmobilers to keep out. However, snowmobilers drive right past them into the trail system and badly damage the trails.

At a minimum this is expensive and time consuming to fix (if it can be fixed at all), reduces the longevity of the snow coverage on the trail, is very challenging for skiers to navigate through, and can cause injury to skiers. I ski at Bear Basin regularly and every year run into snowmobilers on the Nordic ski trails, not to mention how many times per year I come across snowmobile tracks crossing back and forth across the trails.

I know snowmobilers need access to their own playgrounds; however, snowmobilers and Nordic skiers cannot share the same space. The Nordic skiers are always the losers in that scenario and there is enough other space for snowmobilers to carve out this small area specifically for Nordic skiers.

Thank you for your consideration.