Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/5/2023 9:17:58 PM First name: Peter Last name: Fitzsimmons Organization:

Title:

Comments: I strongly endorse the "winter closure to over-snow vehicle use near the Bear Basin nordic ski area". Several times each season we see the trails at Bear Basin encroached by snowmobiles, snow bikes and tracked UTVs. Sometimes they just cross the groomed trails to reach a couple extra acres of powder inside Lyle's Loop, despite having millions of acres worth of powder otherwise available for their use. Other times they ride for extended distances down the trails causing significant damage to both the skate and classic tracks. These actions pose a danger to the nordic users, causing unexpected, variable conditions that can cause significant injury. I was lucky enough during President's Day weekend to be able to bail out of the classic track back into the skate lane at significant speed without incident after I encountered a section of the classic track that had been ridden over and trashed by a snowbike. I was glad that I was able to stay on the trail since going off trail in that area meant a fairly steep and well treed drop. The damage also causes significant problems for the groomer since, depending on conditions, it can take several passes to repair the uneven trail surface and packing caused by the snowbikes/snowmobiles/UTVs, meaning more expense, time and machinery wear to repair the trail. The snowmobiles, snowbikes and tracked UTVs have plenty of room to play outside of Bear Basin, please give the nordic community a chance at some unhindered trails.