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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal for the forthcoming Granite Goose Landscape Restoration Project #63507.

Primarily I would like to comment on the closure of the Bear Basin area to over the snow vehicles. My wife and I are residents who live on Bear Basin Rd. and we use Bear Basin (Nordic and Snow Shoe) nearly daily. We also ride over the snow vehicles and use Forest Service Rd. 451 to access the trail system and the National Forest area beyond.

The current proposal goal of de-confliction will not be improved if the closure incorporates the FS roads as drawn. Definitive boundaries should be used to ensure that Snowmobilers are aware of "Off Limit" areas. The most effective way that this can be accomplished is to use the existing forest service roads as boundaries similar to what Brundage Mountain does on the backside of the ski hill. Utilizing these roads allows for easily identified roads to be used as markers of areas of closure. In addition, signage similar to those used at Brundage would improve identification of closure areas.

My recommendation is to strike a balance and not further restrict either one group or another. Use FS roads 451 and 452 (50451 and 50452) as boundaries for the Bear Basin closure. This allows for residents to still access the backcountry and continues to preserve our Nordic area. Furthermore it will allow for definitive areas of closure to be easily identified by operators of over the snow vehicles.

The vast majority of Snowmobilers and Snowbike riders will abide by these boundaries just as they do at Brundage. Educating these recreationalists would be another tool that the USFS can use to minimize conflict. This recommendation allows for access by local residents and continues to de-conflict between motorized and non-motorized use of the National Forest.

Snowmobiling and Snow Biking is a popular winter activity enjoyed by millions of people worldwide. The United States Forest Service (USFS) manages millions of acres of public lands, including many popular snowmobiling areas. It is crucial for the USFS to maintain snowmobile access to these lands to ensure that the economic and social benefits of snowmobiling are not lost.