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First name: Todd

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Greetings,

Please consider the following comments re the Granite Goose Landscape Project. My comments are all related to the Bear Basin recreation area.

1) Please retain the current non-motorized uses (Nordic ski/snowshoe in winter and mountain bike in summer). The area is well used by both locals and tourists. Nordic skiing can start in November and extend into April. Mountain biking picks up after the snows thaw and can continue into Sept. So the area is well utilized but would also have some seasonal slow time; presumably a good balance. The Bear Basin area is a much appreciated, well operated, well cared for, low impact amenity many people value and praise.

2) Please consider either a) further limiting motorized uses (snowmobile, snow bikes, etc) along the eastern boundary of the Bear Basin area (along Lyle's Loop, Keyhole especially, Big Bear) winter Nordic trails aka by the service access road between Bear Basin and Old Brundage Mountain Road or b) posting more prominent multiple signs with fines along this boundary. Not sure this will work without enforcement. Therefore the preference is for option 2a. The reason for this request is that fairly regularly snowmobiles/snow bikes travel into the Bear Basin Nordic ski area from its eastern boundary headed west sometimes at a high rate of speed dropping into the basin which is dangerous to Nordic skiers. The current signage does not always dissuade and can lead to confrontations. There are times when the snowmobile/snow bike riders appear to not know riding into Bear Basin is prohibited and times when they appear to knowingly do so. Beyond the safety issue this presents to Nordic skiers and their dog companions, the motorized riders destroy the classic and skate tracks when they cross them as well as track up the natural landscape which is part of the non motorized experience in this location.

3) Please consider adding some additional parking either at the trailhead (preferably) or anywhere along the access road, Club Hill Blvd. The lot works pretty well but fills up sometimes on weekends or during after school Nordic ski club activities.

4) Please consider retaining as much healthy timber as possible in the Bear Basin recreation area. The forest protects the Nordic trails from sun and wind and creates an attractive aesthetic for Nordic skiers and snowshoers.

In summary, the Nordic, snowshoe, mountain bike, hiker users seem to really value the designated uses currently approved by the USFS and appear to generally be good stewards of the environment. Thank you for allowing this use. Please continue these uses in the updated plans and if possible add any additional protections to the Bear Basin area for recreation such as further restrictions on adjacent motorized uses. The larger granite goose planning area provides other significant acreage and opportunity for motorized uses.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.