

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/24/2023 10:11:52 PM

First name: Tim

Last name: Koerner

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello

I would like to say thank you for the ability to comment on the Kaniksu osv plan.

The proposed plan does open a lot of country to snowmobiles, which I thank you for, but it does close a lot of land April 1st. Alternative A does not open as much mid-winter snowmobiling as the proposed plan, but does have a later closing date for emerging grizzlies coming out of their den. I would like to see the open areas of the proposed plan with the closing dates of the alternative A plan. I would also like to see the opening dates for OSV travel be the mid-November dates and all closing dates be April 15th. There is no evidence that snowmobiles affect grizzly sows with cubs coming out of their dens. The bear biologist in Bonners Ferry even stated that, he is basing his recommendation, off of vehicles and roads, not off-trail riding by snowmobiles. He can think they are the same, but they are not (vehicles on roads and off-trail snowmobiles). This same thinking is the same style of thinking that says snowmobiles allow other predators into lynx habitat in the middle of winter, which is not the case, snow gets hard, and ice hard in mid-winter, which allows predators up into lynx habitat. I am showing the thinking of the lynx was not correct, and I feel the thinking on the snowmobiles is not correct also.

I support the grizzly bear coming back, but I do not support closing off areas to activities that have been occurring on the land that the grizzlies are coming back on. We have more grizzly bears today, than we did 5 years ago; Snowmobiles are not interfering with the recovery of the grizzly bear. This is why I would like to see best of both plans be implemented for OSV's in the Kaniksu. Have the same open areas of the proposed plan, with the closure dates of alternative A. In addition, I would like to see the closure dates of osv's to be mid-April.

Thanks

Tim Koerner